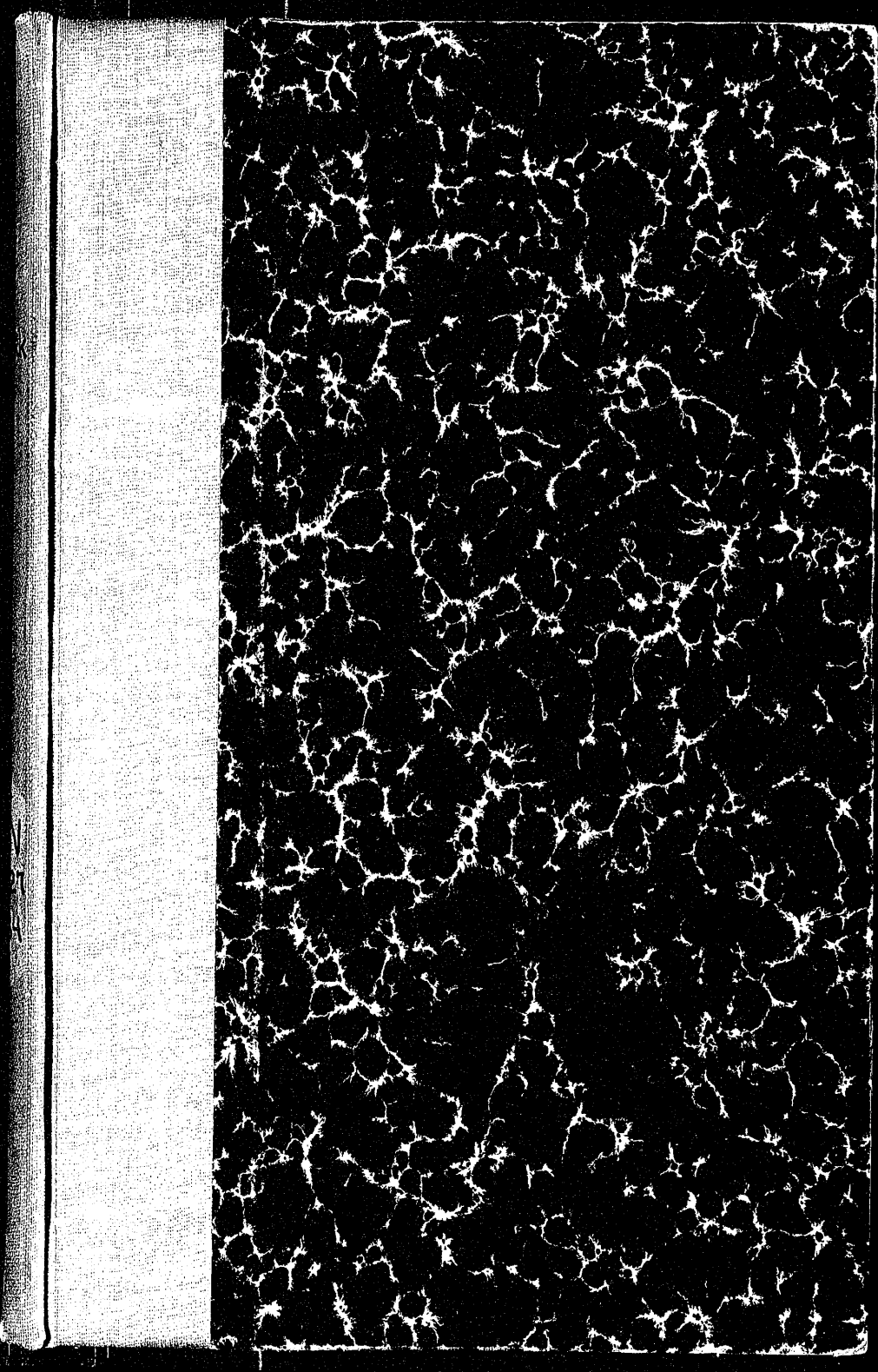

Dif.

Dav

The University of Chicago
Libraries

A Year's Program
FOR
Young People

HARRY THOMAS STOCK
Young People's Secretary of the Congregational Education Society

With the Collaboration of the
NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF CONGREGATIONAL YOUNG PEOPLE

THE PILGRIM PRESS
BOSTON CHICAGO

A YEAR'S PROGRAM FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

BV 4427
S84

COPYRIGHT, 1926
BY SIDNEY A. WESTON

Printed in the United States of America

THE JORDAN & MORE PRESS
BOSTON

750461

THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF CONGREGATIONAL YOUNG PEOPLE

The following young people, most of them of high school age, have given freely of their time and thought in helping to prepare the materials contained in the following pages. This National Committee co-operates with the Young People's Department of the Congregational Education Society in creating and developing all plans which are offered to the churches during the current year.

Edward Allen, Sheldon, Iowa.
Lorna Bartlett, Laconia, New Hampshire.
John F. Bird, Butte, Montana.
Karl Bosworth, Kiowa, Kansas.
Estelle Camp, Weiser, Idaho.
Louis Coleman, Jr., New Orleans, Louisiana.
Richard Davis, Grand Island, Nebraska.
Roger Ela, Whitewater, Wisconsin.
Jean Farrington, Grand Forks, North Dakota.
Alfred E. Frazier, Berkeley, California.
Grace Glass, Buffalo, New York.
Harrison Greenleaf, Auburn, Maine.
Martha Grow, Watertown, South Dakota.
Sherwood Haynes, Hyde Park, Massachusetts.
Ruth Houghton, Burlington, Vermont.
Helen Hunt, Everett, Washington.
Margaret James, Orange City, Florida.
Opal King, Eaton, Colorado.
Oscar E. Maurer, Jr., New Haven, Connecticut.
William McCall, Muskegon, Michigan.
Willis H. Merrill, Los Angeles, California.
Elva Myers, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
Miriam North, Chicago, Illinois.
Dorothyann Oliver, Minneapolis, Minnesota.
William Schmink, Columbus, Ohio.

220244

CONTENTS

	PAGE
A General Word	ix
PLANNING A PROGRAM	
September: The Interests and Needs of Young People	1
Committee Work: Publicity, Meetings, Membership	1
A Month of "Finding Out"	3
How Do You Use Your Time?	3
What Amusements Interest You Most?	4
What's on the Mind of Young People?	5
Just What Should Our Organization Do for the Young People of Our Neighborhood?	5
Choosing Courses and Topics	5
Planning the Worship: Bible, Hymns, Prayers	6
Special Helps for 1926	7
October: Getting Behind a Program	9
A Slogan for the Year	9
Definite Goals for the Year	9
Making a Budget	11
How Much Money Is Needed?	11
How Much You Think You Can Raise	12
The Personal Use of Money	12
A Sample Budget	13
The Membership of Your Organization	13
Your Constitution	14
Welcoming New Members	14
Planning the Worship: Hymns, Bible, Prayers	15
Special Helps for 1926	16
MAKING OUR WORLD NEIGHBORHOOD FRIENDLY	
November: The Meaning of World Citizenship	
Our Share in Building a Friendly World	17
Information	17
Prayer for Missions	18
Service	19
Publicity	20
Armistice Sunday	20
What Makes a Good Citizen?	21
The Thanksgiving Program	22
Planning the Worship: Hymns, Bible, Prayers	23
Special Helps for 1926	24
December: Applying the Christmas Spirit	26
The Every-Member Canvass	26
Golden Rule Sunday	27
Christmas Plans	27
Dramatizations	28
Community Service	28
Children	29
Christmas Carols	29
The Christmas Meetings	29

PAGE

Watch Night Meeting 30
Installing New Officers 30
Planning the Worship 32
Special Helps for 1926 33

BUILDING CHRISTIAN CHARACTER

January: Developing Right Habits 34
General Features of the Year's Program 34
An Emphasis on Personal Habits 35
Habits of Prayer and Reading 35
Habits of Church Attendance 37
A Guide for Personal Habits 37
Special Features in the Department or Society Meetings . 38
Competitions or Contests 39
Planning the Worship: Bible, Hymns, Prayers . . 40
Special Helps for 1927 41

February: A Code of Christian Ethics 42
Building a Code of Ethics 42
"Collier's Weekly" and a Moral Code 42
The Code of President Hutchins 43
The Ethics of Work 43
The Wilmette Code 43
Benjamin Franklin's List of Virtues 44
The Aims of the Pioneer 44
The Girl Reserve Code 45
The Law of the Camp Fire Girls 45
The Boy Scout Law 45
The Code for Canadian Girls in Training. . . . 45
The Views of a Chinese Boy 46
Major Sins to Be Avoided 46
After Adopting a Code 47
A Month of National Anniversaries 47
Planning the Worship: Bible, Hymns, Prayers . . 48
Special Helps for 1927 49

YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE CHURCH

March: Understanding Our Religion 50
What Is Lent? 50
Personal Habits of Study and Prayer 51
A Special Method of Training in Religion . . . 51
The Pastor's Class 51
Special Study in Regular Church School Classes . 52
Pastor's Talks at the Society Meetings . . . 52
A Church Membership Campaign 53
Planning for Easter 54
The Home Missionary Program 54
Planning the Worship: Bible, Hymns, Prayers . . 55
Special Helps for 1927 56

April: Making Our Neighborhoods Christian . . . 57
The April Emphasis 57
Textbooks for Study Groups 57
Discussion Topics 58
Practical Service 59

PAGE

Town and Country 61
Student Summer Service 61
The Summer Conference 61
Planning the Worship: Bible, Hymns, Prayers . . 62
Special Helps for 1927 63

TRAINING FOR LARGER LEADERSHIP

May and June: Education and Life Work 64
The Summer Conferences 64
Mother's Day 65
Goodwill Sunday 66
Choice of a Life Work 67
Commencement Season 68
Planning the Worship: Bible, Hymns, Prayers . . 69
Special Helps for 1927 70

SPECIAL SUMMER ACTIVITIES

Shall We Close for the Summer? 72
Union Enterprises 73
Using Visitors during the Summer 73
Have Variety in Your Program 74
Staying Out of Doors 75
Visiting Neighboring Communities 76
Vacation Schools of Religion 77
Personal Service Activities 77
Children's Day 78
Fourth of July 78
Planning the Worship: Bible, Hymns, Prayers . . 80
Special Helps for 1927 82

A GENERAL WORD

The title of this booklet is really a misnomer. This is not a fixed and inflexible program which can be run off automatically like a program on the phonograph. Neither is it a pantry of canned goods and predigested foods, upon which a department or society will thrive simply by serving them up as they are. Rather, these pages provide a collection of tried suggestions, some of which may prove fruitful in one church while an entirely different selection will be useful in another.

There is no single Congregational program. Churches differ with communities and with the years; young people's work cannot be set up on a stereotyped plan. It is hoped, however, that this booklet offers a variety of concrete helps from which the programs of several thousand Congregational young people's groups will be constructed.

Let no church "accept," "take," or "adopt" the order and details in these chapters. The country is full of ineffective classes and societies — groups that have been content to take what has been set before them. Thousands of classes and societies have passed away because they depended upon ready-made schedules instead of working out their own salvation. Three words indicate the proper procedure with reference to the material herein contained: study, selection, adaptation.

Those who have co-operated in preparing this booklet do not aim to save work for young people and their leaders. In fact, it is expected that they will work harder. No society ever died of overwork. The heavy mortality is due to intellectual laziness and the kind of activity that contents itself with being busy. What should result from the use of these chapters is less waste of energy, better directed endeavors, and more significant results.

One note recurs in these pages with a monotonous frequency: *get to work early*. A group that does not tackle the December program until the first of December is lost. **It is absolutely imperative that committees shall be at work a month in advance of this time.**

At the end of each chapter are topics based upon the main emphasis of the month. The Christian Life Topics are built especially with this program in mind. They are intended to help local groups in carrying out the various projects. But no society should use any single topic unless it meets the need of that group. Further help for these topics appears each week in "The Wellspring," a young people's paper issued by the Pilgrim Press (one dollar per year, eighty-eight cents in quantities).

The Young People's Department of the Congregational Education Society, 14 Beacon St., Boston, Mass., will continue to issue quarterly and special bulletins containing further help for the various seasonal enterprises. These will be sent without cost to all who register their names with the Department.

The material which has to do with the missionary enterprise has been furnished by Dr. Herbert W. Gates, General Secretary and Secretary of Missionary Education of the Congregational Education Society.

The real pioneering in young people's work is being done by young people themselves in the local churches. Any wisdom which national and state officers may offer has been gained from the experience of leaders in local fields. Will Rogers is constantly saying, "All that I know is what I read in the papers." The Young People's Secretary makes the same confession: All that I know is what the young people and their leaders tell me. Please continue to educate us all by sending in the details of any enterprise which you have carried out. Questions, criticisms, and suggestions of all kinds are most heartily requested.

HARRY THOMAS STOCK

14 Beacon Street
Boston, Massachusetts

A Year's Program for Young People

SEPTEMBER: THE INTERESTS AND NEEDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE

Begin Planning Early

The executive committee should be at work not later than August first if the September program is to be carried out well. It should raise the question: Just what are the main things that we want to do this year? The following are some of the answers which may be considered: to hold all the present members; to help them live better lives; to interest new people; to take a proper share in the whole program of the church.

The committee should be at work by September first on the details of the October program. Read the October chapter now, and assign special committees to work out the details.

Committee Work for September

The following committees should be at work:

Publicity

Make attractive posters. Write interesting announcements for the papers and the church calendar. Send unique invitations to all members, writing little verses, pasting on the invitations pictures clipped from magazines or newspapers, and employing the artistic ability of the committee members. See that every member receives at least one personal invitation. Follow up for the second meeting those who did not come to the first. Make people very much at home when they arrive. (The committee members should come at least twenty minutes early.) Do not allow cliques to form. Ar-

range chairs informally — in circles rather than in regular rows. Report the meetings, socials, and general plans in the town papers.

Meetings

Prepare carefully for the worship feature in the church-school department: good music should be provided, different young people should be asked in advance to lead in prayer, brief talks or biblical dramatizations may be used occasionally. Secure the help of trained musicians in making up your programs.

The committee in the society or club should also see that the opening period of worship is well conducted. The leader should be notified at least three weeks ahead; materials for the meeting should be in his hands at least two weeks ahead; very definite plans should be under way a week before the meeting; every person who has a special part should be checked up a few days before or on Sunday morning. **Remember that if you fail to make the first meetings interesting you will have a hard time in getting people to come back.**

Membership

The committee should spend most of September in getting ready for October. September may be given to renewing the interest of the old members and in planning programs which will attract new people; the campaign for new attendants and members may be set for October. Consider the following suggestions:

(1) Who are the young people at school or who work with us who are not attending church-school or society meetings? Make a list.

(2) Who are the young people in our block, or "along our road," who do not attend? List them.

(3) Just exactly why are they not interested? Find out the reasons and make a list. Spend at least one meeting in discussing this matter.

(4) Who knows each of these young people best? Assign to each member a list of names of those with whom he is best acquainted.

(5) Make a definite plan to enlist the interest of every one of these new people during September or October. Have a regular system of report, later in the campaign, by which

each member tells why he has not succeeded in bringing certain persons, or what methods he has found successful.

A Month of Finding Out

If you are to be of the greatest service to the young people you must know certain things about them. Find out about these matters this month. This "finding out" may be by general discussion, personal conversation, informal surveys, or regular questionnaires. If you follow the questionnaire plan note the following suggestions:

(1) Every member may be given a questionnaire; or only a few may be asked to answer the first questionnaire, a few others the second, and so on. Try to get an equal number of boys and girls to answer.

(2) The questions should be written or typewritten, allowing plenty of space for a complete answer. Give them out two weeks before the discussion meeting; collect them a week before the meeting. Try to get very frank and detailed answers. Do not ask the members to sign their names.

(3) The leader or chairman should make a summary of the answers before the meeting. This should be written on a blackboard, typewritten, or mimeographed, so that all may follow. The results should be fully discussed in the society or class.

(4) The discussion should be the beginning of a plan of action for the improvement of the class or society, and for planning the kind of program suited to local needs.

The same results may be obtained in some places through personal conferences rather than through the questionnaire, but be sure that your discussions are based on investigation. The following four investigations may be made:

How Do You Use Your Time?

The discussion will include (1) How many hours each week are you in school or at work? (2) How many hours each week do you read or study at home? (3) How many hours do you spend at home tasks? (4) How many hours do you give to socials, amusements, "dates"? (5) How many hours do you give to church work? (6) How many hours do you sleep? (7) What do you do on Saturdays? (8) What is your program for Sunday? (9) Do you think that you

spend your time wisely? If you were to make better use of your time how should you change your present schedule? (10) Prepare a budget of time on the basis of what you *should* do instead of on your present practice. Let it include a division into hours to be devoted to exercise or work (aside from school or one's job), reading or studying (aside from school), pleasure and recreation, doing nothing, church work, personal prayer and religious development, etc. (11) Discuss: What determines the way in which we use our free time? (Consider: The main purpose we have in life determines what we do with our time; we do what is easiest or most fun without any real planning; we all need the right perspective and sense of values.) (12) Consider: How much time do you think the church should expect of you? See whether your group will agree to give that much time. Plan your year's program so as to use that amount of time wisely.

What Amusements Interest You Most?

In considering this question think of the following points: (1) How do these amusements affect our lives? (2) What kind of amusements should our church provide? (3) Should we give the young people "what they want" or "what they need"? Previous to the discussion, a study or survey should be made which will include such queries as: (1) Which of the following interests you most? Mark them in order of preference: Movies? "Legitimate shows"? Outdoor sports? Church parties or socials? Automobiling? Dancing? "Dates" in which you stay at home? What others? (2) How many nights a week are you "out" at social affairs? Is this all right? Too many? Too few? (3) How do church parties compare with others? (4) Tell why you like them or why you don't. (5) Tell specifically the kind of parties or socials this church should provide. (6) Do your amusements help you with your work or interfere with it? (7) Do they help you to be a better Christian or do they make it harder? Exactly how?

For those desiring to make a careful study of recreation from the Christian standpoint, we recommend *A Christian's Recreation* by E. L. Shaver (50 cents). This is a project study which may be adapted to any group. Further help may be secured from the Young People's Department.

What's on the Mind of Young People?

In what serious subjects are your young people interested? Do not choose your discussion topics or study course until you find the answer to this question. Then build your program around the answers you get. Your investigation will include:

(1) Are they at all interested in serious matters or are they wholly absorbed in light subjects? (2) Which of the following interest them most? Studies, religion, relations with persons of the opposite sex, love affairs, personal temptations, war, parents and home, what else? (3) Exactly what moral and religious problems bother them most? Be very specific; e.g., the question of evolution, right relations between boys and girls. (4) Does the church or class or society help much in solving these problems? Exactly how? If not, why not? (5) What kind of subjects do you want to discuss in your church-school class this year? (6) In the society meetings? (7) On what matters does your class or society need most help? (Theology? Evolution? Personal morality?)

Just What Should Our Organization Do for the Young People of Our Neighborhood?

This study and discussion should determine the main outlines of the year's program of activity and service. (1) What should be the main purpose of the church-school class? (2) Of the "preaching service"? (3) Of the young people's society? (4) In what definite way can this organization (department, class or society) help the young people most? (5) What are its weakest points? (6) What are the things which it has been doing best? (7) Specifically, how should its meetings be improved? (8) What must it do if it is to interest new people?

Choosing Courses and Topics

As a result of this study and discussion the church-school classes should examine the lesson materials. If they are not helping to meet the needs disclosed, get rid of them and find others. Examine the lesson materials of all publishing houses. Get the best, regardless of who publishes it or of what it costs. The good materials are cheapest in the long run and seldom cost much, if any, more than inferior materials. Your com-

mittee may communicate with the Young People's Department.

Topics for the society should be chosen for a month, two months, or three months at a time. Select those projects that will be of greatest use to you, or those topics which will help most. Topical selections may be from the senior and intermediate Christian Endeavor list, the B. Y. P. U., Epworth League, the Unitarian list, and all other denominational offerings, and from the Christian Life list offered by the Pilgrim Press in *The Wellspring*. Write the Young People's Department for help.

Planning the Worship

In the department of the church school fifteen minutes should be given to a carefully planned service of worship. The opening period of the society meeting should be given to a similar service. Helps for worship, suggested below and to be found in hymnals, should not be followed slavishly; they are offered only as guides for building your own program.

An appropriate worship theme for the month would be THE NEEDS OF YOUTH.

Bible Passages

Luke 2 : 41–52; Prov. 3 : 1–23; Ps. 119 : 9–16; Josh. 1 : 6–9; John 15 : 1–7; Eph. 6 : 1–3, 10–18.

Hymns

I Need Thee Every Hour; I Would Be True; Just As I Am, Thine Own to Be; I've Found a Friend; O Jesus, I Have Promised. Use good hymnals, such as *Worship and Song*, published by the Pilgrim Press. If you do not now have such hymnals, see whether you cannot during the year raise the money to provide the society or school with them.

Prayers

In addition to the spontaneous prayers of the pastor, the adult counselor, and the young people, use some of the great prayers that have been used by the Church for many centuries and also prayers written by modern poets. Have young people write their own prayers. The following may be used:

"Give me clean hands, clean words, and clean thoughts; help me to stand for the hard right against the easy wrong; save me from habits that harm; teach me to work as hard and play as fair in Thy sight alone as if all the world saw; forgive me when I am unkind and help me to forgive those who are unkind to me; keep me ready to help others at some cost to myself; send me chances to do a little good every day, and to grow more like Christ. Amen."[1]

"O God, our Helper and Strength, we come to thee in time of need. Our hearts cry out for help to resist the temptation that is so near and the danger that is so real. Strengthen our power to resist evil. Reinforce our faith in thee and in the right. May our courage not fail us! Amen."[2]

We pray, our Father, that we may want the right things: those things which thou dost want, those things which will be good for us and for our neighbors. Keep us from selfishness. Keep us from low desires. Grant that we may grow into that fullness of life which showed itself in thy Son Jesus Christ. Amen.

"Dear Father, we young people of today, from whose ranks the leaders of tomorrow will arise, need a new vision, a new understanding of Christ. May we have leaders who will guide us in our effort to gain this understanding and in our search for the truth. Help us to live as Christ would have us live. In His name we pray. Amen."[3]

Special Helps for 1926

The following helps will be provided in *The Wellspring* each week. A service of worship will be built upon the general theme for the month. The Christian Life Topics will be:

Sept. 5 How Do the Young People of Our Neighborhood Spend Their Time?

Sept. 12 What Amusements Interest Our Young People Most? Why?

Sept. 19 In What Serious Subjects Are Young People Most Interested?

[1] William De Witt Hyde.

[2] From *Worship and Song*, Winchester and Conant. Copyright, The Pilgrim Press. Used by permission.

[3] Florence Halverson, Humboldt, Iowa, Congregational Church.

Sept. 26 What Ought Our Organization to Do for Young People?

Senior C. E. Topics bearing upon the month's emphasis are:

Sept. 5 Christian Ideals and How to Reach Them.
Sept. 12 What Is the Church and What Should It Be Doing?
Sept. 26 What Work Shall We Plan This Year?

BEGIN STUDYING THE NOVEMBER CHAPTER NOT LATER THAN OCTOBER 1

OCTOBER: GETTING BEHIND A PROGRAM

Plan Early

It has already been suggested that a committee should be at work during September, planning the general October program. Some of the main items for its consideration are: (1) A campaign for new members. (2) The adoption of a year's slogan. (3) Setting definite goals for the year. (4) Consideration of a budget to be adopted in October or December. (5) Exactly what obligations a member of your organization or your church should be expected to have. (6) Consideration of any necessary changes in organization.

A Slogan for the Year

Would it be any help to select a slogan or motto? If so, get original suggestions from the members. The following are only representative of some selected by other groups: "All the young people of the church at the whole task of the church"; "Forgetting the things which are behind, we press forward"; "First things first"; "Faith, fellowship, fun"; "Each for all, all for each"; "Congregational Young People — always dependable."

Definite Goals for the Year

The executive committee, or a special committee, may work for several weeks on the problem: Just what are the things which our young people can do best for the church and the neighborhood? The chairman of the committee may lead the Sunday meeting when the question is discussed: Choosing Some Goals for the Year. A number of definite proposals may be considered, and after a week's thought on the matter a vote may be taken actually selecting goals. The year's work should center around these objectives. In getting ready to outline the year's work:

(1) Have the pastor tell briefly and definitely just what help he would like from the young people.

(2) Have the chairman of the church board or the finance committee tell just what part the church would like to have the young people take in the church budget.

(3) Have a special committee on membership tell how many young people are not connected with any church.

(4) Have summer conference delegates tell of plans suggested for young people's work. Ask them to make very definite recommendatons.

(5) Have the chairmen of the meetings committee, missionary committee, etc., tell of proposed plans for the year.

(6) Get frank suggestions from all members and ask visitors to suggest their criticisms and advice.

After these facts have been gathered (be sure that someone writes them down), consider: Do we want to adopt definite goals such as the following:

(1) A special feature every Sunday to be prepared carefully by different persons — biblical dramatizations, high-grade special music, brief readings or talks on significant subjects.

(2) A specific responsibility to the church; such as taking flowers from the pulpit to sick people after the Sunday services, assuming responsibility for certain Sunday evening or vesper services, serving as a publicity committee for the church.

(3) A definite program of mission study and service. (A special committee or the missionary committee should make a preliminary report of plans not later than the last Sunday in the month, when the topic may be discussed: What Part Should We Have in Missions? This discussion may be an introduction to a mission study program for November after which the budget may be finally adopted.)

(4) A budget.

(5) An average of — present every Sunday. Should this be 100% of the membership, or 75%, or 50%, or should it be 10% greater than the membership?

(6) A certain number of new members within the next three months. Should you hope to gain 6%, 10%, 50% — what per cent? What per cent of those who are on the list of young people not now connected with the church should you expect to win?

While every group should adopt as big a program as it is

possible to carry through, it is better to choose a few items and to see that they are successfully accomplished than to list a large number and fail in most of them. Make sure that certain committees and individuals are made responsible for every item that you approve. The president or the executive committee must check up on these other committees. If you want to keep the whole group informed as to your progress, make a wall chart, on which attendance records will be kept, pledges to the budget shown, etc.

Making a Budget

The executive committee and finance committee should study (1) how much they think ought to be raised by your group; (2) how much they think really can be raised in the light of past experience; (3) what it ought to be spent for; (4) how to collect or actually secure it.

How Much Money is Needed?

Study:

(1) How much you need for running expenses: music, flowers, programs, etc. (Should money for socials come out of the budget or should all amusement and recreation features be financed separately by fees, offerings, etc.?)

(2) How much the group ought to give to the local church. This will be based on: how much the church needs during the year, how much they would like to have from the young people, the per cent of the total budget of the young people's organization which you think ought to go to this purpose.

(3) How much you should give to missions. (Find out how much the church is expected to give and what the needs and programs of the mission boards are.) This month you may decide just what proportion of your total you will give to missions, or it may be better to wait until after you have studied the whole subject of missions (see the program suggested for November; also the December chapter regarding the every-member canvass).

(4) How much you should give to the state Council of Religious Education (Sunday-school work), the Christian Endeavor Union, etc.

(5) How much you should leave for emergencies.

How Much You Think You Can Raise

Consider:

(1) How much you raised last year. Did you do all that was possible?

(2) How did you raise your money? How should it be raised: by weekly or monthly collections, by pledges, entertainments, etc., or by a single subscription to the church after which the church shall pay all the expenses of the society or department? (For further details, write the Young People's Department.)

(3) Make a careful estimate of how much your organization can raise through all of the means approved.

(4) Compare this with the estimate of how much you think is needed.

(5) Out of this comparison make a budget which you will actually try to raise. Discuss with your pastor and other adults the question as to whether this should be made in October, November, or December. Be sure to read the November and December chapters before arriving at a decision.

The Personal Use of Money

What your organization is able to raise depends largely upon the financial habits of your members. Consider:

(1) How much money do your young people have?

(2) How do they get it?

(3) How ought they to get it: earn it, ask for it, have an allowance?

(4) Should they be compelled to remain within their own income?

(5) The importance of budgeting one's own income. Make a sample budget, indicating what proportion one should use for candy, movies, church, clothes, etc. Have a banker come in and tell you about the importance of having a budget and keeping within it.

(6) How much should you give to religious purposes? Compare the amount that you spend for ice cream with your contribution to the church.

(7) Study the whole question of tithing. Is it possible for young people to tithe? Ask some tither to tell you about it. Would the financial problems of your church and society be solved if everyone tithed? Make an actual calculation

Send for a package of free literature on stewardship. Address: The Secretary of Promotion, 287 Fourth Ave., New York City.

Get your young people to adopt certain habits concerning the use of money after you have discussed and studied this whole matter.

A Sample Budget

The figures here given are only a basis of discussion. Make your own budget according to local needs and world opportunities. A sample: running expenses, 10%; home expenses of the church, 35%; missionary work of the church, 35%; miscellaneous, including emergencies, C. E. Union, etc., 20%.

The Membership of Your Organization

Before new members are invited to join, old members should ask themselves: How seriously are we taking our work in the church? The whole question as to what the church expects of young people, and what response should be made, may form the basis of a discussion meeting.

What should you expect of new members? How should they be chosen? What should be the age limits? What is your present practice in limiting membership? Is it satisfactory? If not, should your constitution or method be changed?

The following are worth considering: (1) Should every person between certain ages be considered a member without election? (2) Should every one who is a member of a young people's class in the church school be automatically a member of the society without election? (3) Should members be elected to the class, or admitted without election? (4) Should there be a pledge which class members must sign? (5) Should society members be required to sign a pledge? (6) If they should sign a pledge, what should it be? Are you satisfied with your present pledge? Do the members keep it? If not, why not? If not, what are you going to do about it?

A list of possible pledges, together with suggestions for making a constitution, will be sent to those who write to the Young People's Department, asking for Bulletin No. 18. Those desiring help on correlating the department and society

should write for *Plans and Methods for Congregational Young People* (10 cents).

Your Constitution

Many groups have just "taken," "accepted," or "adopted" a constitution without knowing what is in it and without considering whether it is built to meet local needs. A committee may be appointed to study the constitution and to consider necessary revisions. The bulletin and booklet referred to in the preceding paragraph will be of help in this matter.

Welcoming New Members

When new members are received, make the occasion one of dignity and worship. Appoint a committee to work out an impressive service of consecration. The following is the outline of such a service developed for the Congregational society at Iowa City, Iowa:

1. **President,** at the front of the room, reads the names of the applicants to be received into membership. They form a semicircle before the table at the front of the room.
2. **President** reads: "You have presented yourselves here, dear friends, in the sight of God and the presence of this company. You have signified your wish to become one of us. It is our hope that you will share fully with us in our determination to welcome here no single type or group, but rather the young men and women of every circle who will be strong in the vital principles of life. May we, together, face our responsibility to humanity as we find it in this community; together, seek to remain always in the presence of the best."
3. **President:** "Will you read with me the pledge from the copies which have been placed in your hands, and when we have finished, sign your names to the roll?" (Read pledge in unison.)
4. While the **new members** sign the roll-book in turn, a **violinist** plays, without accompaniment, some of the hymns of the church, such as, "Blest Be the Tie that Binds."
5. Prayer, by the **minister.**
6. **President:** "Will the members of the society please rise?" As they rise, the president continues: "We, then, the

members of this society, welcome you with joy into our fellowship. We pledge to you our sympathy, our help, and our prayers, that you may evermore increase in the knowledge and love of God."

7. **All rise** (visitors who are not members, included). Sing without accompaniment, "Blest Be the Tie that Binds," or some other hymn, such as "I Would Be True."

Planning the Worship

The worship theme for the month may be WORKING TOGETHER.

Hymns

True-Hearted, Whole-Hearted; Work, for the Night Is Coming; Faith of Our Fathers; We March, We March to Victory; I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord; Lord, Speak to Me.

Bible Passages

Neh. 1 : 1–7, 2 : 1–6, 4 : 1–6; Luke 10 : 1–3; I Cor. 3 : 9–13; Rom. 15 : 1–7.

Prayers

The special emphasis may be on: a wise use of our talents, sacrifice of personal interests for the Kingdom of God, prayer for wisdom and patience in the young people's group. The following may be used:

"O Christ, thou hast bidden us pray for the coming of thy Father's kingdom, in which his righteous will shall be done on earth. We have treasured thy words, but we have forgotten their meaning, and thy great hope has grown dim in thy Church. . . . Help us, O Lord, in the courage of faith to seize what has come so near, that the glad day of God may dawn at last. . . . Our Master, once more we make thy faith our prayer: 'Thy kingdom come! Thy will be done on earth!' "[1]

"Almighty God, of thy fullness grant to us who need so much, who lack so much, who have so little, wisdom and strength. Bring our wills unto thine. Lift our understandings into thy heavenly light; that we thereby beholding those things which are right, and being drawn by thy love, may bring our will and our understanding together to thy service,

[1] From *Prayers of the Social Awakening*, by Walter Rauschenbusch. Copyright, The Pilgrim Press. Used by permission.

until at last, body and soul and spirit may be all thine, and thou be our Father and our eternal Friend."[1]

We thank thee, our Father, for thy great patience with us. We ask that we may have something of that same patience toward each other. Grant that in our common work together, we may follow the light which comes from thee; that we may love and serve in the same spirit which filled the days of Jesus Christ; that we may come to have a deep Christian affection for each other as children who seek to know the will of God and are consecrated to his kingdom. Amen.

"Give me a task too big,
Too hard for human hands.
Then I shall come at length
To lean on Thee;
And leaning, find *my* strength!"[2]

Special Helps for 1926

The Wellspring will carry services of worship on the general theme. The Christian Life Topics will be:

Oct. 3 What Makes a Meeting Helpful?
Oct. 10 Choosing Some Goals for the Year.
Oct. 17 What Has the Church a Right to Expect of a Christian Young Person?
Oct. 24 The Young Person's Money Problems.
Oct. 31 What Part Should We Have in Missions?

The senior C. E. topic for October 10 is: How to Pull Together.

BEGIN STUDYING THE DECEMBER CHAPTER NOT LATER THAN NOVEMBER 1

[1] George Dawson, *Prayers.*
[2] Wilbur Humphrey Fowler, in *The Christian Century.* Used by permission.

NOVEMBER: THE MEANING OF WORLD CITIZENSHIP

Plan Early

The missionary committee should have in mind early in October something of the year's program along missionary lines. It should decide when foreign missions are to be considered, when home missions shall have the right of way, whether missionary topics should occur every month, whether special missionary features (dramatizations, reports, stereopticon lectures, etc.) should be inserted in both the society and department sessions. The material having to do with foreign work is included in this chapter; that having to do with home work in the April chapter. It may be wise in some places to reverse the order. Some groups will choose entirely different months. See also the December section which deals with the every-member canvass.

Committees arranging for Armistice Day and Thanksgiving undertakings should be at work early in October. Christmas plans should be under way by the middle of November at the very latest.

Our Share in Building a Friendly World

The races and nations of the world are becoming more closely associated every year. We know more of daily events in China or Japan than our grandfathers did of what happened in the next state. Friendly relations are necessary if we are to get on well in this sort of world. We may well include in our program, therefore, reading and study that will give us **information** concerning other people, **prayer** for missionaries and their work, and **service** in missionary lines.

Information

The following methods may be included:

(1) Discussion Topics; such as, Foreign Missions: Old and New. How do the methods of today differ from those of twenty-five or more years ago? What is the Value of Foreign Missions? What Should Be Our Attitude toward the Re-

ligions and Customs of Other People? Our Share in the World-Wide Christian Enterprise. These topics are merely suggestive. Many good topics will be found in the missionary textbooks, or in such a book as *Missions and World Problems*, or *And Who Is My Neighbor?*

(2) Mission Study Groups. Real study of some good book, by a small group who are ready to work, will produce better results than mere program meetings, although these meetings also have their place. General books recommended for such work are:

World Friendship Inc. by J. Lovell Murray (75 cents); an interesting and comprehensive survey of foreign missions in its various aspects.

The Cost of a New World by Kenneth Maclennan ($1.00); a statesmanlike review of missions and their relationship to world problems.

Missions and World Problems by The Inquiry (75 cents); a syllabus of questions and references for discussion; a good source book for discussion topics.

Further suggestions for 1926–27 are made at the end of this chapter.

(3) Reading. There is both interest and profit in the reading of good books about mission work in other lands. The number of such books that can be recommended is too large to be included here. A missionary reading contest will prove an interesting feature; or part of the service of worship may be given over to the reading of extracts from good books, or to the telling of a story from missionary literature. For suggestions as to methods and for a list of books, apply to the Department of Missionary Education, 14 Beacon St., Boston, Mass.

Prayer for Missions

The habit of prayer is an important factor in our religious experience. Our interest will grow through earnest and definite prayer. The missionary committee might well suggest the making of a prayer calendar, on which individual missionaries and mission causes may be named for definite prayer at certain times throughout the year: for example, a special field of missionary endeavor, or a particular missionary, may be listed for every Sunday. Information regarding the needs in this field may be given, and then the worship service may

include prayer for this person and field. Suggestions as to method may be found in the *Year Book of Missions* (Woman's Board of Missions, 25 cents). It will be much better to have your own prayer calendar made up of persons and causes suggested by members of your group.

This habit of prayer should be cultivated by the individual members in their private devotions as well as in the group meetings. Make your prayers specific and definite. Pray for certain persons by name, not for missions in general only. Especially seek to be used in the service of Christ yourselves, and thus show the missionary spirit in your living.

Service

Knowledge is idle and prayer meaningless unless they lead to active service. The committee should suggest various ways in which the group may share in this world enterprise, and let the members decide upon a program.

(1) Most churches hold their every-member canvass, or other plan of raising the budget, in December. Consider ways in which your group may help to make this canvass more successful. Consult the pamphlet, *The Young People's Share* (free on request, Department of Missionary Education). See also the October and December chapters.

(2) Adopt some definite world-friendship task for your own. This may be a certain share in the missionary budget of your church, or the support of a specific piece of work on the foreign field.

(3) Prepare one or more original programs to be given at a Sunday evening or a midweek service, at the general assembly hour of your church training institute, before the church school or woman's society meeting, or other appropriate occasion. A fresh original program will often do more to arouse interest in missions than weeks of the "regular" meetings.

(4) Handwork. Much can be done to help our mission schools and stations by making articles of many different kinds: Things to use in school, gifts for Christmas trees, toys and picture books, games and puzzles, articles of clothing, and so on. The American Board or the Woman's Board of Missions will gladly send information as to needs. The Department of Missionary Education will help you get this information if you have any difficulty.

(5) Is your school a "World Service School"? If not, send to the Department of Missionary Education for the pamphlet describing this plan and then see if you cannot get it introduced into your own school. Perhaps you may find that your school is enrolled but is not using the material effectively. The thing that may be needed to turn the scale and change it into a really inspiring program is, perhaps, an offer from your group to get behind it and make things go. Get up one of the programs and let the school see how interesting it can be made. Here again, the Department of Missionary Education will gladly co-operate.

(6) *Christian Young People and World Friendship* by E. L. Shaver (50 cents) outlines a project plan which may be adapted to use in any kind of young people's group. It includes both service and careful study of missionary needs.

Publicity

World friendship is an attractive subject for poster work and other forms of publicity. It may be that one of the greatest contributions you could make would be to study this matter of publicity for the various types of missionary work that are going on in your church but are too often unnoticed. Find out what missionary sermons your pastor intends to preach, the subjects of meetings to be held by the missionary societies, special missionary days in the church school, and so on. Having gathered facts and information as to place, dates, time, etc., see what you can do to advertise these events in new, attractive, and interest-provoking ways. More than one young people's group has taken charge of the preliminary publicity of the every-member canvass and thereby made a larger contribution in the way of increased gifts than all of their members together could have given in cash.

Armistice Sunday

The program for Armistice Sunday may include such features as the following:

(1) Debate: Resolved, "That the Church of Christ as an institution should not be used as an instrument or an agency in the support of war." This proposition was adopted by the National Council of Congregational Churches. Send to the Department of Social Relations of the Congregational Edu-

cation Society, 14 Beacon St., Boston, Mass., for literature which will help.

(2) Discuss the "Statement of Social Ideals," adopted by the National Council in 1925. Many classes and clubs might profitably spend an entire month or more in discussing some of these statements. Copies may be secured from the Department of Social Relations. It is expected that a text-book on this subject will also be ready for fall, prepared particularly for older young people.

(3) Begin a serious study of such social problems as peace and war, what the Constitution of the United States contains, law enforcement, international relations. Send to the Young People's Department for Bulletin No. 16 which gives further help on this subject.

(4) Include in your worship program music written by men and women of all nationalities. See the list of composers and authors in the back of any good hymnal, and also the section on worship at the close of this chapter.

(5) Present simple tableaux or dramatizations, such as the following: American and foreign-born children playing together; world contributions of foreign nations — agriculture, medicine, music, poetry, printing, telegraph, wireless, etc.; the story of the Good Samaritan, of Cain and Abel, of Jacob and Esau; procession of people of various nationalities dressed in native costume, each telling something about his own country — the Jew gave Jesus to the world, the German gave Martin Luther, the Greek gave us great art, etc.; represent a French scene just before the Armistice, a Belgian home just after it, the sufferings of German children during and after the war, what might have been true if there had been no war.

Scripture passages particularly appropriate include: Ex. 20 : 13; Matt. 5 : 9; Is. 11 : 1–10, 2 : 1–3, 9 : 1–7; Mic. 4 : 1–5; Luke 2 : 8–14; Is. 53; Phil. 2 : 5–11; Is. 31; I Kings 18 : 17–39; Acts 10 : 1–23; Matt. 5 : 38–42; Luke 10 : 25–37; Matt. 6 : 12, 14, 15, 18 : 21–35; Acts 4 : 13–20.

What Makes a Good Citizen?

It is often said that we had better give all our attention to making good American citizens, rather than try to convert people in foreign lands to Christianity; that it would be bet-

ter to save America than to meddle in international affairs. During this month it will be well to study the question: What makes a person a good citizen of the United States? A few of the questions which may be considered are: What are some of the best things contained in the United States Constitution? Have it read in advance by several members, and then let them lead the discussion. What has obedience to law to do with good citizenship? Can a person violate the Eighteenth Amendment and be a good citizen? What about the person who does not vote? the person who tries to avoid paying the taxes which the law requires him to pay?

The Thanksgiving Program

Thanksgiving should be one of the great seasons of the year for young people in the church. Plans should be made early, and should include such questions as: What is the rest of the church planning? How can we fit into the general plans? Is there any way in which all the churches of the neighborhood, or all the young people's groups in the churches, can unite in some worth-while Thanksgiving program? The following are some possibilities:

(1) Have a fall festival — an all-day program some day near Thanksgiving, with farm products for sale, old-time music, a program of a community character. This may be combined with an "old home church Sunday" immediately preceding or following, on which Sunday all persons who have ever been affiliated with the local churches are urged to come back for this one Sunday.

(2) On Thanksgiving Day or Sunday the young people may volunteer to see that all the old people are brought to the church in automobiles.

(3) If there is to be a union Thanksgiving service, let all the young people attend, marching to the church in a body and occupying special seats. The pastors may invite representatives of the young people's group to have some part in the program.

(4) If there are children, young people, or strangers in town who are in orphanages, rooming houses, or hotels, arrange to invite them to the various homes of the neighborhood; for example, have the orphanage children come to dinner to homes where there are children of their age; invite young people to homes where there are other young people.

This is even better than taking baskets to orphanages, although that is an excellent custom.

(5) You may have either an elaborate or a simple dramatization. It may be original, built on the story of the Pilgrim Fathers, or certain printed booklets may be used. While there are not many dramatizations prepared for Thanksgiving, the list of those available may be secured by writing the Young People's Department.

Planning the Worship

The theme for the month may be WORLD CITIZENS.

Hymns

Great missionary, peace, and Thanksgiving hymns should be used: Hail to the Brightness of Zion's Glad Morning; God of Our Fathers; God the All-Merciful; O Zion, Haste; O Beautiful for Spacious Skies.

Scripture

Bible passages have already been given in connection with the Armistice Day section. Read selected passages from *The American Missionary* and *The Missionary Herald.* For Thanksgiving, use the proclamations of the President and of the governors. Good poetry may be found in books and magazines.

Prayers

"God of the Universe, whose blessing rests on those who are struggling in darkness as well as those who have received the light of Christianity, we ask that thou wilt guide and help in the carrying on of the great missionary enterprise all over the world. Wilt thou give strength and courage to those who are spending a life of glorious service on the battle fields of the Christian faith. We ask that through their efforts and the efforts of those who will follow them new nations and peoples may come to experience the joy of following the Master.

"May we always remember that those who are making 'straight the pathway of the Lord' in distant lands are representing *us*, and may we ever strive to make our lives worthy of having a share in that wonderful work. And if the call comes to any of us to spend our lives in furthering thy king-

dom in any land, may we be willing and worthy to carry out the will of Him who said, 'Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.' Amen."[1]

"Eternal God, Father of All Souls,
Grant unto us such clear vision of the Sin of War
That we may earnestly seek that Co-operation between Nations
Which alone can make War impossible.
As man by his inventions has made the whole world
Into One Neighborhood,
Grant that he may, by his co-operations, make the Whole World
Into One Brotherhood." Amen.[2]

"O Father of light and God of all truth, purge the whole world from all errors, abuses, corruptions, and sins. . . . Let humility triumph over pride and ambition; charity over hatred, envy, and malice; purity and self-control over lust and excess; meekness over passion. . . . Let the Gospel of Christ in faith and practice prevail throughout the world, through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end."[3]

Again, our Father, we meet in the spirit of Thanksgiving. While we have often been faithless, thou hast been faithful. While we have not given generously of either life or goods, thou hast provided us with both our necessities and many luxuries. Accept our thanksgiving, we pray. And may we go about the work of the week in the spirit of this day, remembering thee as the giver of all good gifts, and serving thee with grateful hearts. Amen.

Special Helps for 1926

Mission study books especially planned for this year include—

Young Islam on Trek by Basil Mathews ($1; 60 cents, paper); the young people's study book for 1926 by a popular and stimulating writer. *Suggestions to Leaders*, 15 cents, from the Department of Missionary Education.

[1] Harold Clapp, Jamestown, N. Y.

[2] From a prayer by H. E. Fosdick, issued by the Women's Pro-League Council Used by permission.

[3] From *The Young People's Manual* of the Canadian Church. McClelland and Stewart. Used by permission.

Moslem Women by A. E. and S. M. Zwemer (75 cents; 50 cents, paper); for young women's groups.

Lands of the Minaret by Nina Rowland Gano (60 cents); a handbook for leaders of intermediates.

The Wellspring will carry services of worship related to the general theme. The Christian Life Topics follow:

Nov. 7 What Is Our Christian Duty Regarding War?
Nov. 14 What Makes a Person a Good Citizen of the United States?
Nov. 21 Should the United States Be Proud or Humble at this Thanksgiving Season?
Nov. 28 What Are Some of the Best Results of Foreign Missions?

Christian Endeavor topics bearing on the general theme are:

Nov. 7 How Make War Against War?
Nov. 14 How May We Promote Interdenominational Fellowship?
Nov. 21 How "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"?
Nov. 28 Christian Endeavor Around the World.

BEGIN STUDYING THE JANUARY CHAPTER NOT LATER THAN DECEMBER 1

DECEMBER: APPLYING THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

Prepare Early

Much of the work having to do with budget and missions may culminate in December; if so, the committees will continue the same lines of activity suggested in preceding chapters. Arrangements for the Christmas programs and service should be under way early in November.

Avoid a "Slump"

Specific arrangements for January should be under way early in December. If officers begin their new terms in January, make sure that there is no "slump" between the time that the old officers go out and the new ones come in. Both old and new executive committees should meet in December to outline the work for January. Have definite work for the members to do while their New Year's resolutions are fresh.

The Every-Member Canvass

In many churches the first Sunday in December is given to the canvass. Suggestions have already been made regarding the young people's budget and their possible share in the total financial program of the church. The following points, in addition, may be useful:

(1) Consult your pastor and the church committee regarding ways in which you may help. Be ready to suggest some original plans of your own for their approval.

(2) Be sure that the young people understand what the money is to be used for. All of November may be given by the committee to study of the program of the local church and of the denomination, making of posters and charts, mounting of leaflets and pictures for a demonstration to the whole church of what the churches are doing for the world. The report of the committee, together with the demonstration of charts, etc., may be made before the canvass Sunday or on that day. Following this subscriptions may be taken.

(3) For a half dozen Sundays previous to the canvass,

brief dramatizations may be given before the school or society, representing the work of the agencies to be helped by the canvass. They should be simple, and should last not more than fifteen minutes. Help may be secured from the Department of Missionary Education.

(4) In making personal pledges consider: Just what per cent of my money should I give to religious purposes? Is the tithe a fair amount? How shall I give it — weekly, monthly, quarterly?

(5) In making a pledge in the name of the class or society, consider what part of your total class or society income should go to the local church and missions; then, determine how you will raise the money. See the October chapter.

Golden Rule Sunday

In many places there will be a general observance of Golden Rule Sunday. Join in the general plans, unless there are reasons which would make a separate observance necessary. If you include this in your program at all (1) Plan definitely to have all your members participate; (2) Study what the need in the Near East is and find out what is being done; (3) Let this study be in charge of a committee which will report facts from week to week preceding December; (4) Report on the value of eating this simple meal. (How did it make you feel last year when you did it? Was this the first time you ever sacrificed food in order that someone else might have some?)

Inasmuch as Golden Rule Sunday and the every-member canvass occur on the same day in many places, it may be well to postpone the former for a week or ten days. In some cases, the observance may be on a week night. If you have an occasional banquet, let this simple meal take its place, collect the difference between four cents and the regular banquet price, and send this contribution to the Near East. The program should be educational and missionary in character. Free literature may be secured from the Near East Relief, 151 Fifth Ave., New York City.

Christmas Plans

Be sure to plan early. Make sure that whatever arrangements you make are of a high order. Do not do the "usual thing" or the "easy thing."

Dramatizations

The Young People's Department will send without cost a selected list of dramatic materials to those writing for it. The following agencies will also make recommendations: The Pilgrim Press, 14 Beacon St., Boston, Mass., or 19 So. La Salle St., Chicago, Ill.; the Woman's Press, 600 Lexington Ave., New York City; the Committee on Religious Drama of the Federal Council of Churches, 105 E. 22d St., New York City. One of the most carefully prepared lists of dramatizations of all kinds is that made by Miss Catherine A. Miller, Schaff Building, Philadelphia, Pa. It may be had by sending Miss Miller ten cents.

Community Service

Increasingly young people are thinking of Christmas in terms of what can be done for others. The following are some of the possibilities:

(1) If there is some organization like the Associated Charities in your community, it may be well to confer with its officers. They may tell you of cases for which you may become responsible; they will warn you against certain people who always ask for help but do not deserve it.

(2) Usually it is better for groups of young people to visit the families themselves, taking baskets, gifts, clothing, etc., rather than to give these packages to the organizations. Personal interest and a permanent friendship should result from these visits. Give wisely; give useful gifts — the kind that are suited to the needs of those who receive them. Add some "extras" to the useful articles. The spirit of Christmas demands more than an ordinary sacrifice, and it should show itself in giving a little more than is actually needed.

(3) If at all possible, arrange to have the older people who cannot come to church regularly at the church for a party. Be sure to make it an occasion which will bring back many happy memories.

(4) If you are going to help those who are poor or neglected, it will be a good plan to bring them to the church for a party. Provide them a great Christmas tree, a musical program, games, etc., and drive them home in cars.

Children

It is especially appropriate to bring good cheer to children. In rural regions, groups of four or five may spend an afternoon driving from one home to another, taking gifts to children who would not receive much if the church did not remember them. Or you may drive them to the church. Sing songs with them; play children's games. Be sure that you do everything *with* them, not *for* them. If you live in towns where there are foreign children, either invite them to the church to a party or hold one in their own neighborhood. Sing American songs; ask them to sing Christmas songs in their own language; play games which they like.

In getting ready for such programs the girls may spend several weeks in making dolls, the boys may wrap bundles attractively, etc. Spend an evening or two making candy, stuffing stockings, preparing the packages. In many cases the young people will do a real service by giving the children of their own church a party. Provide a Christmas tree, arrange children's games, provide refreshments that youngsters like, and then have capable persons read stories. It will do the seniors as much good as it will do the juniors.

Christmas Carols

The singing of carols is one of the oldest and best features of Christmas week. On Christmas eve the young people may go through town singing songs familiar to everyone, stopping in front of the homes of older people and sick children, provided they are not so sick that the music would disturb them. Join at certain points other groups of young people who are singing songs in other parts of town. In communities where there are several churches, let all of the young people arrange the carol program together. Divide up the town; let one church group take one section, another group another section, etc. Come together at certain points for a joint concert. A great Christmas tree may be arranged in the center of the town around which the closing program is to be given. The business men will be glad to provide such a tree if the young people plan a good enough program.

The Christmas Meetings

The worship features should be carefully planned. Make them very informal, but very dignified. Hold them around

fireplaces, in the homes, about a Christmas tree. The regular discussion topics may be abandoned, and the meeting given over to the reading of stories. If there is an exceptionally good reader in town, secure her help. The following Christmas stories may be used: "The Fir Tree," in Hans Andersen's *Fairy Tales; The First Christmas Tree*, by Henry van Dyke; *The Story of the Other Wise Man*, by Henry van Dyke; *Where Love Is There God Is Also*, by Leo Tolstoi; "The Selfish Giant," in Oscar Wilde's *Fairy Tales; Why the Chimes Rang*, by Raymond Alden; "Legend of the Christmas Rose," by Selma Lagerlöf, in *Story-hour Favorites*, by W. Harper; "The Great Guest Comes," by Edwin Markham; "The Coming of the Prince," by Eugene Field; "Christmas Sketches," by Washington Irving; *Christmas Stories*, by Jacob Riis; "Christmas: A Story," by Zona Gale; *Little Women*, by Louisa Alcott (first chapter). The librarian will help with further suggestions. See current magazines for other stories and poems.

Watch Night Meeting

Many churches "watch the old year out and the new year in." Some churches have their annual business meeting on the last night of the year, closing with a supper and a service of worship. The young people will want to participate by providing certain elements of the service of worship, such as a simple dramatization, special music, or prayers; and by having a carefully prepared report of the important things which have been done during the year and an equally well-planned statement of some of the enterprises upon which they expect to work in the new year.

In case the church itself does not have a watch night service your young people's group may have one. Gather early in the evening, have a lively social hour first, follow with a business session, serve supper at eleven o'clock, and conclude with a high-grade service of worship around the table just as the year is closing.

Installing New Officers

Where the new officers are elected during December the service of installation may take place on New Year's Eve. Have a committee work out a dignified program for this in-

stallation. The following is an illustration of some of the elements which may be included:

Soft instrumental music while the officers-elect gather around the minister, the adult counselor, or some ex-president.

ADULT LEADER. You have been chosen, by these your friends, to serve in positions of responsible leadership. You have been so selected because we have faith in your character, ability, and fidelity. During the coming year you will have the high privilege of justifying the faith which your friends have shown in you.

To you comes the call of leadership. Upon all of us rests the obligation of co-operation. In the presence of God and of each other, let us here covenant with him and with one another, to do those things which we are sure he would have us do, and to do well whatever we attempt. Let us resolve that personal desires and ambitions shall not stand in the way of harmonious united effort. Because we are called to service in the things which have to do with Christ's church, let us resolve to be purer, humbler, more unselfish than we have ever been.

Receiving now the responsibility which is being placed upon you, do you agree to devote the best of your thought and energies to the task which your new office demands of you?

OFFICERS-ELECT. I do.

ADULT LEADER. And now, our Father, we bring to thee for thy benediction these officers of our young people's department (or society). Grant them the abiding consciousness that they are co-workers with thee and thy Son. Grant them patience and faith and responsibility. May we all be one in our great common end and task, to present every man perfect unto our Lord Jesus Christ. (Adapted from an installation service by E. D. Gaylord and A. H. Merritt, in *The Church School*, Vol. III, p. 19.)

Following this the adult leader may give instruction to the several officers and committee chairmen, in some such form as the following:

ADULT LEADER. (To the president-elect.) Upon you, in particular, rests the responsibility for leading the leaders,

for seeing that worthy enterprises are promoted, for trying to realize a Christian spirit in everything that is done. Great honor has come upon you. Fulfill in all humility, and yet with the knowledge that God works with you, all of the high expectations of these your friends.

After the leader has charged, in some similar fashion, the various officers and chairmen, the service may close with the singing of Lead On, O King Eternal, or of, O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee.

Planning the Worship

Naturally, the Christmas note will dominate everything. Read the various accounts of the birth of Christ; find poems bearing on this subject. Note particularly the composers and authors of the Christmas hymns, the dates when they were written, and the nationality of the writers. If you can get people of other nationalities to sing such hymns as "Holy Night" in their own language, it will add to the solemnity of the occasion. The following are samples of poems which may be used either in supplementing the Scripture or as prayers:

"But peaceful was the night
Wherein the Prince of Light
His reign of peace upon the earth began. . . .
For if such holy song
Enwrap our fancy long,
Time will run back and fetch the age of gold. . . .
Yea, Truth and Justice then
Will down return to men,
Orbed in a rainbow; and, like glories wearing,
Mercy will sit between,
Throned in celestial sheen."[1]

"Jesus, of Calvary and of the Cross,
Ourselves we dedicate
This holy night, when thou for peace wast born;
We, of a world disordered, torn and threatened by grim fate,
Pledge love again, peace and good will to men."[2]

[1] John Milton, "On the Morning of Christ's Nativity."

[2] Corinne Roosevelt Robinson, "An Invocation, Christmas, 1923." Charles Scribner's Sons. Used by permission.

"Except the Christ be born again to-night
In dreams of all men, saints and sons of shame,
The world will never see his kingdom bright. . . .
Our Christmas shall be rare at dawning there,
And each shall find his brother fair,
Like a little child within!
All hearts of the earth shall find new birth
And wake, no more to sin."[1]

"The Carpenter of Galilee
Comes down the street again.
In every land, in every age,
He still is building men.
On Christmas Eve we hear Him knock —
He goes from door to door:
'Are any workmen out of work?
The Carpenter needs more.' "[2]

Special Helps for 1926

The Wellspring will carry a Christmas worship service each week. The following are the Christian Life Topics:

Dec. 5 How the Church Helps All through the Year.
Dec. 12 What Influence Are We Having upon Younger Children?
Dec. 19 In What Way Would Jesus Want His Birthday Remembered?
Dec. 26 The Good and Bad Results of New Year Resolutions.

The following C. E. topics are useful for discussion:

Dec. 12 The Children of Our Community: What Shall We Do for Them?
Dec. 19 How Can We Express the Christmas Spirit?
Dec. 26 The Past Year — Its Lessons; the New — Its Possibilities.

BEGIN TO STUDY THE FEBRUARY CHAPTER NOT LATER THAN JANUARY 1

[1] Reprint from *Collected Poems*, Vachel Lindsay. Used by permission of the Macmillan Co.

[2] Hilda W. Smith, "The Carpenter of Galilee," in *The Girl's Every Day Book*. Womans Press. Used by permission.

JANUARY: DEVELOPING RIGHT HABITS

Prepare Early

Plans for this month should be made before Christmas. The emphases for January and February are very much alike and may be considered together. In some cases it may be wise to begin with some of the activities suggested for February and follow them with items contained in the January chapter. Study both together before adopting a plan.

General Features of the Year's Program

(1) The church-school classes should be studying lessons selected by, or approved by, the young people themselves. Before supplies are ordered for the year or for the quarter, the young people should be consulted about the matter.

(2) A special committee of the department should be in charge of the worship plans for every Sunday. Different classes may provide the leadership for different Sundays; one class may be in charge for a month, a second class for another month. Make the general plans for a month at a time, so that there is unity.

(3) The topics for the society should be chosen for a month or a quarter, so that January will start off with a push. Do not accept the Christian Life Topics or the C. E. topics unless they are the ones that you actually want. A good way to proceed is this: Let the topics committee, the program committee, or the executive committee meet early in December. They should have before them all of the available lists of topics for the first three months of the year. Let them then decide what topics out of all of these lists they want. Assign leaders on the basis of interest or ability along any particular line.

(4) Plan carefully for regular committee meetings. Post the schedule of meetings on the board. Post the list of leaders, committee appointments, special worship and social assignments, but be sure to make the announcements in the meetings also. When you make announcements, speak

clearly and interestingly. The president or adult counselor will have to follow up each committee to see that it is making progress.

An Emphasis on Personal Habits

The church should take advantage of the resolution-making habit. The program for the month may include (1) the consideration of Christian habits; (2) the facing by each person, in the quiet of his own room, of his personal problems and temptations and ambitions; (3) a definite plan for each person by which he will try to improve his manner of living; (4) the formulation of a program by which the whole group will try to strengthen one another in the Christian life. Note the details suggested below.

Habits of Prayer and Reading

Many think that they are too busy to engage in regular programs of reading and prayer. They pray and read occasionally, but there is no regular time set aside in the daily program for it. Consider the following possibilities:

(1) A regular program for each person: five or ten minutes a day for reading, meditation, prayer.

(2) A regular time each day when this shall be done: immediately upon arising, just after breakfast, just before retiring.

(3) Signing a card by those who are willing to do this. They may agree to carry out a plan for a given period, say during January and February. In some places it may be better not to ask young people to sign such a statement, or at least not to make the signing a public matter. In case it seems wise to have a pledge signed in public, a little service of consecration may follow the signing. A simple agreement follows: "Believing that it will improve the temper of my life and will make me a more effective Christian, I agree to spend about five (or ten) minutes each day at a stated time in quiet reading of religious literature and in prayer."

(4) Have all the members plan to read the same book. Take a designated passage each day. Give a few minutes each Sunday for general discussion of some of the things read. The Sunday worship service may include some of the passages read during the week.

(5) If the church-school teacher plans to give the pupils

Christmas gifts, good books are recommended. All members of the class may be given the same book, so that use may be made of it in the manner just indicated; or each pupil may be given a different book which may later be exchanged, so that all may have the benefit of reading a number of good books. A carefully selected list of books and magazines will be sent to those interested. Write the Young People's Department. For girls, there are few books equal to *The Girl's Every Day Book*, published by the Womans Press for a dollar. It is easily worth two or three times as much. Dr. Fosdick's *Meaning of Prayer* is recommended.

(6) Undertake the project of building a book of prayers for the class or society. Secure a large, attractively bound scrapbook. Encourage the young people to write prayers, to collect prayers from the hymnals and books of prayer, to find verses of hymns or poems that are full of the spirit of prayer. Paste these neatly in the scrapbook; have someone letter these prayers, indicating what the main themes are (for the sick, for peace, etc.) and noting the author and source. As the book grows an index may be inserted. This would make a useful book from which for many years societies and classes could draw worship materials.

(7) In some places it may be preferable to read the Bible rather than some other book. All may agree to read the same portion each day, reading a book of the Bible through' or taking selected portions such as are suggested in The Congregational Hand-book (five cents, from the Pilgrim Press), in church-school lesson helps, in Christian Endeavor magazines, etc.

(8) The young people may inaugurate this practice among themselves and then invite the entire church to join them. Put it up to the church members in some such way as this: Suggest that each family have a period of devotional reading each morning or evening; that the fathers and mothers sign cards similar to those suggested for the young people; that certain books be made the basis of the reading for the next two months; that the pastor's sermons have some relation to what is being read in the homes. Let the young people plan the matter carefully, then take it up with the pastor and with the men's and women's organizations. Give the matter wide publicity, but do it in a dignified and serious fashion.

(9) All of the young people's groups in town may join in this movement. It may even lead to a united effort by young and old of all the churches.

Habits of Church Attendance

A "Go to Church" month may be conducted during the early part of the year or during the weeks just preceding Easter.

(1) Attempt to secure perfect attendance at the class and society meetings. Set a definite goal — 100%, 90% — attendance for the young people at the morning or evening service of the church. Some pastors may prefer to have the young people sit together.

(2) Attempt to get all the members of the families to join in this same movement for perfect attendance during January. In this case it would be better for families to sit together.

(3) All of the young people's organizations of the town may join in a community "Go to Church" campaign. Adopt a slogan like: All the young people of all the churches at all the services of their church during January. Plan a sane but wide-spread campaign of publicity. Use posters. Print stories or advertisements in the newspapers. Use statements of famous men, or of local business, professional, and labor leaders, regarding the value of church attendance.

(4) Be sure that the services at the church school, at the society meeting, and at church are of a high order so that you will be able to hold those who come once.

(5) Do not compete with other churches; do not try to get anyone to come to your church who ought to go to another. If you have a community campaign, do everything in the name of "the churches," and do not play up your church in such a way that people may accuse you of trying to outdo another church.

A Guide for Personal Habits

It may be well to multigraph or mimeograph a sheet containing suggestions for improving personal habits. First, discuss these points in the class or society. Then give each member a copy of the suggestions to be studied at home. Let him mark those points that he intends to follow, and then

keep the guide before him on the wall or in his desk. The following may be included:

(1) I plan to spend at least five (or ten) minutes each morning immediately after arising (or after breakfast) in reading a good book having religious value.

(2) As a part of this period of meditation I plan to pray quietly — voicing my own thankfulness and desires, writing simple prayers, reading the prayers written by others.

(3) I plan to attend the church-school class every Sunday during January and February, the young people's society every week, and the general church service at least once a week. (Make such additions or changes as seem wise.)

(4) I shall make a special effort to overcome certain faults and temptations during these two months, particularly the following: — (List certain ones; such as, inability to concentrate on my work, lack of control of my temper, unworthy thoughts and imaginations, other faults.)

(5) I plan to take better care of my money, my clothes, etc.

(6) I plan to make a budget of my time, and to try to hold to the general division of time which seems right (so many hours for sleep, work, etc.).

(7) Other resolutions.

Special Features in the Department or Society Meetings

If an attempt is made to secure perfect attendance, every session must be unusually helpful and interesting. Among possible innovations are:

(1) A report each week by one or two members of some good thought which has been discovered in the week's reading.

(2) Reports concerning needs which have been discovered among the poor of the community, in mission fields, etc.; for example, if there is a sick boy, make a report of it one Sunday, appoint a committee to visit him, and the following Sunday let the committee make a statement regarding its visit.

(3) Provide a series of simple stories or dramatizations of missionary work. Write the Department of Missionary Education.

(4) Plan a series of special musical numbers. If possible, give something of the history and meaning of the musical numbers used.

(5) In February, special emphasis may be placed upon the qualities of great national heroes.

Competitions or Contests

Contests in the church school and among societies are very common. They often degenerate into cheap rivalries of the picnic or vaudeville type. The results for which they are planned are frequently of secondary importance. Sometimes questionable methods are employed. A serious temptation is to use the time of the class or society in discussing the mechanics of the contest, and the new attendants gain very little of permanent worth from coming. A competition which seeks in a dignified way to reach high goals, and which is part of a consecutive program of real religious education, may accomplish real results. The following types may be held: between (1) an older boys' class and a younger boys' class (the same with the girls); (2) the boys' classes and the girls' classes; (3) classes or departments of different churches; (4) a young people's class and an adult class; (5) two societies in different churches; (6) a senior and an intermediate society in the same church.

If a contest is held, care should be taken to keep "first things first." The following precautions should be observed:

(1) Do not take the time of the class or society in talking about the mechanics of the contest. The sessions should be devoted entirely to high-grade instruction, discussion, and worship.

(2) Do not accept anyone who belongs in another church.

(3) Do not give points for insignificant matters.

(4) Award points on the quality of the meeting rather than on the basis of the number who took part. For example, have three impartial judges, two of whom attend one group meeting and the third the other (reverse the order the next week); after each meeting let them come together and discuss the meetings, considering how much preparation was made, the amount of vital discussion, how profitable the meeting was; then, grade the two groups on the basis of percentages.

(5) It is more important that a smaller number shall participate intelligently than that everyone shall read a clipping. The reading of clippings by younger members is not to be discouraged, but this practice by older members should be

outgrown. Certainly a keen high school junior should not be awarded a point because he reads a clipping.

(6) Keep the main purpose in view: better meetings more largely attended. The gaining of points is comparatively unimportant.

Planning the Worship

The worship program may make the theme of the month central, DEVELOPING RIGHT HABITS.

Bible Passages

Heb. 10 : 22–25; Ps. 119 : 97–112; Gal. 5 : 16–23; Ps. 27 : 1–6; James 1 : 12–22.

Hymns

God Is My Strong Salvation; I Need Thee Every Hour; Looking Upward Every Day; Lord, for Tomorrow and Its Needs; I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord; Father, Lead Me Day by Day.

Prayers

Use ideas that have been found helpful in your reading. Pray for those things for which you feel the greatest need.

> "I know Him near.
> Oh, very near He stands
> And gives, with quiet hands,
> For old misdeeds and old mischances,
> Calm, and new faith, and pardon."[1]

Dear Father, at the beginning of a new year, we remember that we have much to be thankful for. Forgive all the failures of the old year: its meannesses, its selfishness, its thoughtlessness. We enter into the new year conscious of our weakness. We intend to rely upon thee. Be thou very near to us when we are weak. Strengthen our resolutions, give power to our intentions, grant growth to our souls. Help us always to follow where Christ leads. Amen.

"Be thou within me, Lord, to purify me; above me, to draw me up; beneath me, to sustain me; before me, to lead me; behind me, to restrain me; round me, to protect me. Amen."[2]

[1] From "Search," by Grace Strickler Dawson, *Century Magazine*, vol. iv, p. 404. Printed by permission.

[2] From *The Churchman*. Used by permission.

"O God, help me to think clearly of clean things. May I read good books, that I may get more knowledge out of my reading; and may I take all possible opportunities to talk with older and wiser men. Give me more knowledge that I may do more good in this world."[1]

"Show me thy ways, O Lord;
Teach me thy paths,
Guide me in thy truth, and teach me;
For thou art the God of my salvation."[2]

Special Helps for 1927

The Wellspring will print services of worship related to the general theme. The Christian Life Topics are:

Jan. 2 The Importance of Regular Habits of Prayer and Reading.
Jan. 9 What Difference Does It Make What We Do on Sunday?
Jan. 16 "Getting By" and "Getting Ahead."
Jan. 23 Whom Should We Consider First: Ourselves or the "Other Fellow"?
Jan. 30 How Should We Treat Those Who Have Injured Us?

The C. E. topics for this month are all useful:

Jan. 2 Being True to Our Covenant with Christ.
Jan. 9 What Confession of Christ Includes.
Jan. 16 How to Develop Our Devotional Life.
Jan. 23 How Can We Train for Service?
Jan. 30 How Show Our Loyalty to the Church?

BEGIN STUDYING THE MARCH CHAPTER NOT LATER THAN FEBRUARY 1

[1] From *Christian Citizenship in the High School*, by six students. George H. Doran Co. Used by permission.
[2] Ps. 25 : 4f.

FEBRUARY: A CODE OF CHRISTIAN ETHICS

Plan Early

The same committee that planned the general program for January may assign to a subcommittee the arrangements for February. In March the church will be thinking of preparations for Easter, and the committee which is in charge of the work for March should be at work early in February. The emphasis for all three of the first months of the new year is pretty much the same: the development of the religious life of the individual members.

Building a Code of Ethics

The main activity suggested for this month is that of having the young people themselves agree upon some code of living which represents their judgment as to the important things which a Christian should do and should not do. They may study existing codes, or work out their own without reference to those now used. At any rate, out of their study and discussion should come a code which they have constructed and by which they are willing to live. Below are listed some of the well-known outlines which may be the basis for several weeks' discussion in the class or society.

"Collier's Weekly" and a Moral Code

Collier's Weekly, in running a series of articles dealing with the moral training of boys and girls, printed a moral code which has since been issued in pamphlet form. This pamphlet, by William G. Shepherd, may be obtained from the magazine by addressing them at 250 Park Ave., New York City. The motto of the code is "In God We Trust." The code includes the following points: "If I want to be a happy, useful citizen, I must have: (1) Courage and hope. (2) Wisdom. (3) Industry and good habits. (4) Knowledge and usefulness. (5) Truth and honesty. (6) Healthfulness and cleanliness. (7) Helpfulness and unselfishness. (8) Charity. (Love for God and for all races.) (9) Humility and reverence. (10) Faith and responsibility."

The Code of President Hutchins

Some years ago President Hutchins, now of Berea College, prepared a code of ethics which has gained wide popularity and favorable acceptance. The main points emphasized are:

(1) The law of health; keeping clothes, body, and mind clean; exercise, right food, sound sleep.

(2) Self-control; controlling tongue, temper, thoughts.

(3) Self-reliance; listening to advice but choosing and acting fearlessly.

(4) Reliability.

(5) Clean play; being a good loser and a generous winner.

(6) Obedience to duty.

(7) Good workmanship; getting the best preparation and doing the very best under all circumstances.

(8) Teamwork.

(9) Kindness; being kind in thought and speech — with no discrimination because of race or any other condition.

(10) Loyalty; to home, school, town, state, country, humanity.

The Ethics of Work

"The Code of Successful Workers" is prepared especially for men and women, but it is equally worthy of study by young people. Its main points are: "I will (1) respect all useful work and be courteous to the workers; (2) know my work and have ambition to do it well; (3) take the initiative and develop executive ability; (4) be industrious and willing; (5) be honest and truthful; (6) educate myself into strong personality; (7) be faithful to my work; (8) be loyal; (9) be a gentleman — a lady." This was issued by the National Institution for Moral Instruction, Washington, D. C.

The Wilmette Code

The Congregational intermediates in Wilmette, Illinois, studied certain questions relating to their ideals and purposes and finally wrote a code of living for themselves. It follows:

"We, the Intermediate Department of the Church School of the First Congregational Church of Wilmette, believe that these are the most important things in life: Religion, Love, Service, and Morale.

"By Religion, we mean trying to live as Jesus wants us to, and interesting others in his teaching.

"By Love, we mean a feeling of brotherhood and interest in everyone and in all they are doing.

"By Service, we mean cultivating a willingness to do anything that comes our way that will make the people around us happier.

"By Morale, we mean letting duty and loyalty rule our thoughts, words, and actions."

Benjamin Franklin's List of Virtues

In his "Autobiography" Benjamin Franklin lists the thirteen virtues which he decided to be most necessary if he was to arrive at "moral perfection." He also worked out a detailed method by which he could note progress in the righteous life. "The names of virtues, with their precepts were: (1) Temperance. Eat not to dullness; drink not to elevation. (2) Silence. Speak not but what may benefit others or yourself; avoid trifling conversation. (3) Order. Let all things have their places; let each part of your business have its time. (4) Resolution. Resolve to perform what you ought; perform without fail what you resolve. (5) Frugality. Make no expense but to do good to others or yourself; i.e., waste nothing. (6) Industry. Lose no time; be always employed in something useful; cut off all unnecessary actions. (7) Sincerity. Use no hurtful deceit; think innocently and justly, and, if you speak, speak accordingly. (8) Justice. Wrong none by doing injuries, or omitting the benefits that are your duty. (9) Moderation. Avoid extremes; forbear resenting injuries so much as you think they deserve. (10) Cleanliness. Tolerate no uncleanliness in body, clothes, or habitation. (11) Tranquillity. Be not disturbed at trifles, or at accidents common or unavoidable. (12) Chastity. (13) Humility. Imitate Jesus and Socrates."

The Aims of the Pioneer

The Y.M.C.A. program for boys from twelve to fourteen years of age is called the Pioneer Program. The aims set before these boys include: "I aim to (1) seek health . . . (2) be self-controlled . . . (3) be self-reliant . . . (4) be absolutely reliable . . . (5) play the game clean . . . (6) do my duty . . . (7) be thorough . . . (8) play a team game . . .

(9) be always kind . . . (10) be reverent . . . (11) be loyal in all my relationships."

The Girl Reserve Code

The Girl Reserve Program of the Y.W.C.A. includes the following code: "Gracious in manner. . . . Impartial in judgment. . . . Ready for service. . . . Loyal to friends. . . . Reaching toward the best. . . . Earnest in purpose. . . . Seeing the beautiful. . . . Eager for knowledge. . . . Reverent to God. . . . Victorious over self. . . . Ever dependable. . . . Sincere at all times."

The Law of the Camp Fire Girls

"Seek Beauty
Give Service
Pursue Knowledge
Be Trustworthy
Hold on to Health
Glorify Work
Be Happy"

The Boy Scout Law

The Scout Law is well known in most communities. In summary, it is: "A Scout is: (1) trustworthy, (2) loyal, (3) helpful, (4) friendly, (5) courteous, (6) kind, (7) obedient, (8) cheerful, (9) thrifty, (10) brave, (11) clean, (12) reverent."

The Code for Canadian Girls in Training

The code for girls from fifteen to seventeen is more detailed than most of those cited. "I purpose to: (1) get an average of eight hours' rest a night, with windows open; (2) learn and practice daily three or four setting-up exercises and deep breathing; (3) clean my teeth at least morning and evening; (4) drink at least one glass of water before breakfast; (5) read, each day, current events from newspaper or magazine; (6) do my home work faithfully or devote time each day to reading or study; (7) devote some time each day to prayer and Bible study; (8) keep a daily account of all personal expenditures; (9) attend public worship at least once a Sunday; (10) attend, each week, Sunday school or Bible class; (11) attend the regular midweek session of my C.G.I.T. group; (12) give a definite proportion of my in-

come, allowance, or earnings for religious purposes; (13) be on time for meals, school or work, and church; (14) air and make my bed and keep my room tidy, and take responsibility for doing each day at least one other home task; (15) think over earnestly, each evening, this question: 'Have I today tried to be thoughtful, courteous, and unselfish in my treatment of others?' "

The Views of a Chinese Boy

A fourteen-year-old Chinese boy, upon being baptized, sat down to think out the question: "What ought I as a Christian to do?" His conclusions follow:

"There are eight characters [translated into English they make four words] which indicate Jesus' ideals. These are 'Sacrifice, Love, Equality, and Freedom'. . . .

"I speak first of Sacrifice. . . . If we are willing to take what we have and give to those who are poor, and if we do not first of all seek our own interests, this we may term sacrifice in the Christian sense of the word.

"In the second place, I speak of Love. . . . Henceforth it is not enough to love self, but we must help those who do not know and practice that ideal, so that all people may obtain the blessings of peace. This is also what Christians ought to do.

"I speak next of Freedom. There are two types of Freedom, the limited and the unlimited. . . . One must first of all control one's self . . . then one is in a position to talk of freedom. For this reason, we who are Christians must act on the principle of limited freedom.

"With reference to Equality. . . . In our relationships with our homes, with society, with our country, there must be no unfairness, no inequality of treatment. In other words, we must live in the world on the basis of friendship. I will help you . . . you will help me. Is not that the best way?"[1]

Major Sins to Be Avoided

Some groups may want to discuss the main temptations which young people face. List them in the order of their seriousness and try to discover ways by which positive virtues may overcome temptations. The following list was submitted to students in several universities. It was generally

[1] From *The World's Youth*, February, 1926.

agreed that the order of seriousness should be as follows (some groups felt that one or two items could not be called sins): impure relations between boys and girls, stealing, cheating, lying, drinking, gambling, vulgar talk, sabbath breaking, swearing, gossip, selfishness, idleness, snobbishness, extravagance, smoking, dancing.

After Adopting a Code

The following steps should follow after you have decided upon those principles which you believe should guide your lives:

(1) Have your code printed on a large chart to hang on the wall.

(2) Have it printed on small cards so that every member may have a copy in his room.

(3) Have it published in the town newspaper, church calendar, etc.

(4) Build the points decided upon into a service of worship or a ritual, to be used on consecration Sundays or upon receiving new members into the organization.

(5) Send a copy to the Young People's Department, 14 Beacon St., Boston, Mass.

A Month of National Anniversaries

The birthdays of Washington and Lincoln are the occasion for services of commemoration everywhere. Other names may be used in connection with theirs, even though the heroes were not born in February. A month of special national interest may be built up around Franklin, Jefferson, Roosevelt and Wilson in addition to the two whose names are usually honored. This special emphasis may show itself in several ways.

(1) The service of worship for the Sundays of February may include sentiments from their writings, or may refer to elements of greatness which we should try to emulate.

(2) The society meetings for four Sundays may be given over to a study of their lives.

(3) The social events may be of a patriotic character.

(4) A dramatization may be worked up, using some of the characters of our national history.

Planning the Worship

OUR CHRISTIAN DUTY is a good theme for the month's worship.

Scripture Passages

Ex. 20 : 1–17; Matt. 5 : 1–12; Phil. 4 : 8, 9; James 3 : 13–18.

Hymns

Dare to Be Brave; O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee; Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus; Fight the Good Fight; Purer Yet and Purer.

Prayers

"Father of all, reveal each task unto us in its true value, what we ought to do, what should be avoided, what each opportunity is worth in heaven's real treasure. And let us with courage and fidelity live our day to our plan. Amen."[1]

Forgive us, we pray thee, for all of our failures to live up to the best that we know. Be patient with us, we beseech thee, our Father. Give us eyes to see the right way; hearts full of love for all men; hands and feet ready to be wearied in the service of Christ and humanity. May, each day, the spirit of Jesus have a fuller sway in our lives. Amen.

"For all the wrong we have done our fellow men; for unkind words and untruthful speech; for loss of temper and irritating conduct; for neglect of charity and failure in justice; for arrogant pride and contempt of the lowly; for forgetfulness of others' pain and advantage taken of others' weakness; for whatever any person may rightfully hold against us, forgive us, O Lord, and help us to love our neighbor as ourselves."[2]

"O God, who knowest us to be set in the midst of so many and great dangers, by reason of the frailty of our nature, we cannot always stand upright; grant us such strength and protection as may support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."[3]

[1] Charles E. Park, in *The Christian Leader.*

[2] W. H. Spence, reprinted from *The Congregationalist.*

[3] From *The Book of Common Prayer.*

Special Helps for 1927

The Wellspring will carry services of worship related to the main emphasis of the month. The Christian Life Topics are:

Feb. 6 What Are Some of the Duties Which Christian Young People Have?
Feb. 13 How Can We Develop Self-reliance?
Feb. 20 What Would Be Included in a "Balanced Life" for Young People?
Feb. 27 If You Were an Employer, What Should You Want to Find in the Young People You Employed?

Christian Endeavor topics related to the general theme are:

Feb. 13 Expressing the Missionary Spirit.
Feb. 20 Our Duty as Christian Citizens.
Feb. 27 Practicing World Brotherhood.

BEGIN STUDYING THE APRIL CHAPTER NOT LATER THAN MARCH 1

MARCH: UNDERSTANDING OUR RELIGION

Plan Early

The matters contained in this chapter are of great importance; therefore, it is especially necessary to make careful plans far in advance. Much of what is listed for March will run on into April in those years when Easter comes in April. During March two committees should be working on the future program: the missionary committee should be considering the home missionary emphasis, and the executive committee should be making some definite plans for summer conference representation. [See the April chapter.]

The March Program

Lent is the period of the year when the entire Church is thinking more deeply of personal religion. It is also the time when there is the greatest loyalty to the church services. The young people should share in these two matters.

What Is Lent?

Let the group discover the real meaning of Lent. Employ some of the following methods:

(1) Find out what the word means. Use the dictionary, encyclopedia, and dictionary of religion.

(2) Find out what churches observe Lent, and how.

(3) Invite in a Catholic priest, an Episcopal rector, or a Lutheran pastor to tell why and how their churches observe the period. If this does not seem practicable, appoint a committee to interview these persons and to make a report.

(4) Find out how Lent is being observed in your own denomination. (Congregationalists will write The Commission on Evangelism, 287 Fourth Ave., New York City.)

(5) Consider certain phases of Lenten observance:

(a) Special public services. What kind should you have? What use may be made of the midweek meeting during Lent? Should there be Holy Week services? If so, in just what way can the young people help?

(b) Personal Bible study and prayer. Write the Commission on Evangelism (see paragraph above) or the Federal Council of Churches, 105 E. 22 St., New York City, for help.

(c) Giving up certain luxuries. What is the value of giving up meat or candy? What are some of the things which young people might give up with profit to themselves?.

(d) Getting rid of certain bad or questionable habits. During this period many people rid themselves of defects in character.

Personal Habits of Study and Prayer

The Fellowship of Prayer, published by the Pilgrim Press, is one of the best guides to personal religion during this period. It contains a Scripture passage, a few suggestions for meditation, and helps for prayer for each day of the Lenten season. Thousands of people are using it. Unless something of a different character is thought to be better, order enough copies so that every member will have one. The price will probably be three cents a copy, or two cents by the hundred.

A Special Method of Training in Religion

In addition to the personal habit of prayer, Lent offers the right opportunity for special study and discussion groups to deal with particular problems of religion. The following are some of the methods commonly employed:

The Pastor's Class

(1) This is usually formed for that group of young people who are planning to join the church. It may consist of from six to ten sessions with the pastor, either on a week night or on Sunday. In some places, a young people's church-school class is directed by the pastor for this period, the subjects used being those commonly considered in the week-night class.

(2) It is not necessary to confine such a class to those planning to join the church. Young people in almost every community want instruction on such matters as prayer, what they can believe, etc.

(3) There may be several classes, led by competent adults,

each dealing with some particular phase of religious truth and life. It is important to get the right leaders.

(4) The study may either follow some booklet or text, prepared for this purpose, or it may be built up around the problems which the young people themselves suggest.

(5) During the Lenten season a few minutes during each Scout meeting may be given to the pastor for instruction along religious lines, for answering questions suggested by boys, or for showing how the Scout Law may be applied in daily life.

Special Study in Regular Church-School Classes

(1) Too often the subjects covered in the regular class session do not face squarely the issues which are very near to the young people's hearts. Substitute, for this period, courses which deal with the problems that the young people themselves suggest; plan this long in advance.

(2) Some of the problems to be considered are: Science and religion, The unique character and meaning of Jesus, What we know about God and how we can know him better, What is prayer and what should we pray for, What does church membership mean?

(3) If such courses are to be used, the teacher should give very deep and careful study to the subjects before coming to class. He has no more important duty all through the year than that of trying to help these young people think through such issues.

Pastor's Talks at the Society Meetings

It is hard for the young people to discuss, in the society, questions dealing with the meaning of religion. Young people often know too little about such matters, and are backward about talking about them in a public meeting. The following plans may help the situation:

(1) The pastor may lead the meetings for six weeks, including the Easter meeting. He may use the kind of text that is prepared for a pastor's class. He will thus turn the society into a class session. If this is done, it should be by the request of the young people themselves. The pastor should not lecture; the real purpose of this kind of meeting will be secured only by a sympathetic presentation of facts which will lead the young people to ask questions.

(2) The pastor may be asked to interpret the topic for a

few minutes during each meeting; for example, if the topics listed at the close of this chapter are used, he would take ten minutes at the beginning of each session to tell some of the things that are involved; then the meeting would proceed.

(3) The regular topics may be used, and the meeting may be conducted as usual, except that a ten-minute period is left at the close of each meeting. In these periods of ten minutes each, the pastor would present six concise talks on six aspects of Christian faith and life, not necessarily connected with the topics used by the young people.

(4) A question box may be used. Leave a box at the door for several weeks; let the young people, without signing their names, put in questions upon which they want help. Let the pastor's period be spent in giving answers to these questions.

A Church Membership Campaign

In many churches large classes of adults and young people are received into the church at Easter. Sometimes entire church-school classes of boys or girls join together.

(1) Be sure that every one who joins knows something of the meaning of church membership. Adopt some method of preparation as is suggested in preceding paragraphs. A series of talks on the meaning of the church will be valuable.

(2) It is well for the group that has completed a period of special study to give some of the results of this study before the society or church school or the church itself.

(3) In welcoming young people into the church, the pastor should make a special effort to receive them with some definite emphasis upon their new obligation. He should use language which they will understand. A certain eastern pastor has for years been interpreting the joining of the church in terms of the following questions: Will you try to think of God as Jesus did? Will you try to love God as Jesus did? Will you try to serve God as Jesus did?

(4) In welcoming young people to the church, the pastor may be assisted in extending the right hand of fellowship by some young person already a member of the church, perhaps especially commissioned for this duty by vote of the church.

(5) It is a good plan to present young people who come into the church with some high-grade devotional or religious book.

Planning for Easter

The Easter occasion is one of the most joyful on the entire church calendar. Especial care should be taken to make the whole day a worth-while commemoration. Let the plans be made in consultation with representatives of other departments of the church, so that there will be no duplication or conflict. Consider the following possibilities:

(1) If a sunrise service for young people is planned, see that it is not "just like any other meeting." Prepare carefully for every phase of it. *The Call to Service*, published by the Pilgrim Press, is a simple and effective worship service prepared especially for this purpose.

(2) If you wish to give a pageant, a carefully selected list of Easter dramatizations can be had by writing to the Young People's Department.

(3) Shut-ins and people usually unable to come to church should be given a prominent place in the program. The young people may secure a list of these persons, then take the invitation of the church to them, and call for them in automobiles when Easter comes.

(4) Young people may help in the decoration of the church. If this task is assigned them, they should be sure to do everything in good taste. Find out from florists and from others just what kinds of flowers are the most in order.

(5) On Easter, all the young people should attend the general services as well as their own meetings. Special music should be a feature of the church-school and society sessions. Some young person may be asked to assist in the general service of the church by reading the Scripture, etc.

The appointment of Junior Deacons is a practice which is commending itself. Let the church select certain young men to assist the regular deacons in the celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper and to help welcome young people into the membership of the church.

The Home Missionary Program

Immediately following Easter care should be taken to tie up the religious interest of young people to some definite form of study and service. This may well be done by putting them to work on some local community problems or on some special missionary undertaking. The missionary committee,

therefore, should have definite plans to suggest toward the close of Lent. See the following chapter.

Planning the Worship

The general emphasis of the month may be carried out in the worship periods by the use of such material as:

Bible Passages

Luke 19 : 29–40, 22 : 7–53, 23 : 26–47, 24 : 1–12; Acts 9 : 1–22.

Hymns

Immortal Love, Forever Full; Savior, Thy Dying Love; Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Crown Him with Many Crowns; All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name.

Prayers

"O God, the King Eternal,
Who dividest the day from the darkness,
Drive far from us all wrong desires,
Incline our hearts to keep thy law,
And guide our feet into the way of peace,
That, having done thy will with cheerfulness while it was day, we may, when the night comes,
Rejoice to give thee thanks."[1]

We remember at this moment, our Father, that thou dost suffer for us and because of us. Forgive our carelessness, our wilful sinning, our absorption in material things. We would give ourselves, during this season of Lent, to those things which were first in the mind of Christ. Be thou very near us, these days, our Father. Be our Protector, Inspirer, Guide. Amen.

"Almighty God! Thou who art the Life of all life, who hast made man from the dust, and thyself hast breathed into him the breath of life, help us in the strife between soul and sense, between the earthly and that which is divine. When the lower within us seeks expression, help us to control and direct our impulses in accordance with thy will, so that our soul life may not be hampered in its growth toward thee. . . . Amen."[2]

[1] From *The Fellowship of Prayer*. Used by permission.
[2] George Dawson, *Prayers*.

"Our Father in Heaven, we thank thee for Easter and what it means to us as Christians. As Jesus rose into a new and glorious life, so may each new day that comes to us bring new joys, new hopes and new opportunities to serve the world as Jesus served it. . . . We know of no better way to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus than to promise him again our joyful and willing allegiance, and this we do. Amen."[1]

Special Helps for 1927

The Wellspring will carry services of worship appropriate to the period. The Christian Life Topics will be:

March 6 In What Way Should Young People Observe Lent?

March 13 What Do the Teachings of Jesus Mean to Us? Why Should We Follow Them?

March 20 What Is Prayer? Why Do People Pray? For What Should We Pray?

March 27 What Are the Chief Reasons for Carrying Missions to Foreign Lands?

BEGIN STUDYING THE MAY CHAPTER NOT LATER THAN APRIL 1

[1] Edna M. Crandall, *Curriculum of Worship for the Junior Church School.* The Century Co. Used by permission.

APRIL: MAKING OUR NEIGHBORHOODS CHRISTIAN

Plan Early

If study groups are to be held a textbook should be selected several weeks before the work begins, and the committee should spend several weeks previous to such selection in finding out the available material. If discussion topics are to be used, they should be selected early enough to insure adequate preparation on the part of the leaders. Investigation should be made to discover some project of community service that may be undertaken. During April definite plans should be made covering the activities to be carried on in May.

The April Emphasis

The interests of the Lenten period usually carry over into April. The devotional season should be followed by one of practical service. This may show itself both in definite projects for community betterment and in joining with other young people's groups in the home missionary undertakings of the churches. In the November chapter, help was provided on the subject, THE MEANING OF WORLD CITIZENSHIP. This was pretty largely an emphasis upon helping people in other lands. The material in this chapter is intended to help in understanding and being of service to those who live in America.

Textbooks for Study Groups

The following-named books are especially recommended; the committee may find others by writing to the missionary boards, especially the Department of Missionary Education of the Congregational Education Society, 14 Beacon St., Boston, Mass. You may wish to conduct more than one study group, each using the text which is of particular interest to its members. A young people's organization in East Chicago, Indiana, runs four groups simultaneously on Sunday

evenings; those desiring to study one problem enroll for that course, and those interested in something else come together in another class. This plan is recommended for part of the year, at least, to give young people a chance to grow intelligent along the lines of their special interests.

Coe Hayne, *For a New America* (75 cents; 50 cents, paper). An interesting study of home missions, with concrete illustrations and suggestions for service. Many topics for discussion.

And Who Is My Neighbor? by The Inquiry (75 cents), contains many incidents from life showing the need of friendly relations between different races. Good questions for discussion. Suggests practical methods of carrying out the principles discussed.

Edwin E. White, *Frontiersmen of the Faith* (75 cents; 50 cents, paper). The young people's (intermediate) home mission study book for 1926–27 tells the stories of home missionary pioneers. The Department of Missionary Education, *Suggestions to Leaders* (15 cents).

Discussion Topics

Two of the books above mentioned, "And Who Is My Neighbor?" and "For a New America," are particularly rich in material for discussion topics. The following may also be used; keep in mind local conditions and needs in selecting topics:

Our Part in Creating a Christian Community: what the members of your group can do to improve conditions, relations between members of the community, and so on.

America's Responsibility for a Christian World: this topic will help to bring out the true purpose and value of home missions.

Home Missions Today: this topic should discuss the methods used at present, noting the changes that have taken place in the last ten or fifteen years. Material may be found in literature of the home mission boards, or in such a book as *From Survey to Service.*

Home Missionary Problems: (a) in the city (b) in rural districts. Either of the two phases may be selected, or both may be used, making two topics.

What Is a Christian Solution of the Immigration Prob-

lem? Any other problem that affects our national life may be chosen, if preferred; such as, the race problem, prohibition, labor, etc.

Practical Service

There is a wide range of choice here, depending upon local conditions and needs. The committee should investigate, allowing the members of the group to make their own selection after careful discussion.

(1) Work in neighboring settlements or mission schools. Young people in many churches have rendered helpful service by acting as leaders and teachers of boys' and girls' classes in sewing, cooking, millinery, wood working, and other useful arts, by organizing social parties and similar activities conducted by such organizations. Are there any such in your community?

(2) Practical service for benevolent institutions. One young people's society planned and carried on a series of "Pleasant Sunday Afternoons" and other occasions for the members of a home for aged people in the neighborhood. They used their own talent in giving concerts, recitations, dramatizations, and secured an increasing amount of assistance from other people who became interested. Another group gave great pleasure to the little folks in a crippled children's home by taking them to ride during the summer and making it possible for those who wished to attend to be present at church and church school. Still another group collected story books and toys, made scrapbooks, toys, and puzzles for convalescent children in the hospital. Many such opportunities exist in almost all communities. What can you discover?

(3) Sharing in community betterment movements. It is becoming quite common to have Clean Up weeks, Red Cross Membership campaigns, and similar movements in behalf of public health, fire prevention and general welfare. A young people's group may find many ways of aiding in such enterprises.

(4) Improvement of race relations. The book, *And Who Is My Neighbor?* suggests conditions, some of which may exist in your own community. Have you a college or university near-by with students who do not feel at home, and who find it difficult to make acquaintances? Are there young

people of other races living in your neighborhood, who are not welcome in the church or in social affairs? Are there people of foreign birth who might be helped through classes for the teaching of English? What can the members of your society or class do as a group to help in such situations?

(5) Sharing in the home mission work of your church. As was suggested in November, the group should have some financial share in the missionary work of the church, either by assuming a definite part of the benevolence budget, or by taking responsibility for some specific piece of mission work. On request, the home mission boards will give suggestions for such projects. Sometimes the young people's society makes an even larger contribution to the support of home missions by giving information and arousing interest in the church, than by the money it gives.

The young people of one church in which home missionary interest was at low ebb decided to do something to improve the situation. They first wrote to the home mission board and secured literature telling of the various lines of work and the needs to be met. They then prepared a series of programs, some of which were given at midweek meetings and some on Sunday evenings, each one presenting some outstanding phase of home missionary service. This culminated in an exhibit, a feature of which was an original home missionary dramatization. The exhibit was held on an afternoon and evening, the dramatization being part of the evening program. A small admission fee was charged, the proceeds being devoted to the home missions budget. Ingenious and attractive booths were arranged to portray various types of mission work. One was fitted up to represent a lumberjack's camp and visitors were invited to contribute good magazines for the lumbermen. The exhibit was thoroughly advertised by good posters and was a great success.

Another group made its contribution by collecting a small library of missionary books, including such as, *Frank Higgins: Trail Blazer; The Debt Eternal; The Child and America's Future*, and books by such writers as Edward Steiner, Mary Antin, and Jacob Riis. These were circulated among the members of the congregation, the young people working out a system for leaving them at the home and passing them on to others when read.

Town and Country

One of the serious American problems is the growing conflict between the big cities and the rural regions. It will be to the advantage of country churches to study newspaper and magazine articles about the city, and for city churches to appreciate the problems of the rural regions. There has lately been prepared a "Rural Life Book Shelf," with discussion courses on the books included in this collection. Information may be had by writing the Pilgrim Press.

Better than merely reading about the city and country is an actual visit by young people of one group to a church representing the other group. Let a country society get in touch with a city society, invite them out for a particular Sunday to discuss together some of their common interests and special problems, and to work out some plan by which they may keep in touch with each other. This visit would doubtless be followed by an invitation from the city church to those in the rural region.

Student Summer Service

An exceedingly useful form of service has been developed under the leadership of the home mission boards, whereby young people (usually juniors and seniors in college, or theological students) are sent out for six weeks or longer to act as pastors' assistants, leaders of vacation schools, etc. They have accomplished a great deal, often being the means of starting permanent work in the communities to which they are sent and getting valuable experience for themselves. Many have found their call to Christian life work in this kind of service.

Several young people's societies have taken as a project in home missions the support of such a student worker. They have raised the money required for a summer's work and have then followed with interest the experiences of "their student." In some cases the student was one of their own number. The home boards will be glad to furnish information to any groups desiring to aid in such an undertaking.

The Summer Conference

More definite suggestions are made in the next chapter regarding the enrollment of delegates for summer conferences.

The matter should not be delayed beyond Easter. In many cases it will be necessary to raise funds to enable young people to go, and this requires planning. In some states, the quota allowed each church is very small, and unless registrations are in early the church may lose its chance to be represented. Literature giving information regarding the conferences may be had by writing the district secretary of the Education Society, the State Conference, or the Young People's Department of the Education Society.

Planning the Worship

The theme for the month may be the same as the title of this chapter.

Bible Passages

Read Old Testament prophecies, especially Amos. Matt. 18 : 15–20, 13 : 1–9, 18–33.

Hymns

O Beautiful for Spacious Skies; Not Alone for Mighty Empire; Angel of Peace; O Zion, Haste; If You Cannot on the Ocean.

Prayers

The prayers will naturally grow out of the study and service which have been the basis of the month's activities. General use may be made of the following:

We who live in town and country would know each other better. Wipe out, O God, any selfishness or cliquishness which divides us from our fellow men. Together in humility, in dependence upon thee, in a new sense of Christian fellowship, we would make America Christian. Help us to begin very near at home. Amen.

"O God, who hast called our nation to a place of trust and responsibility throughout the world, we humbly thank thee for all the ways in which thou hast blessed and guided us unto this day. We confess before thee, with shame, all that has been evil in our history, and all that even now makes us unworthy to be called a Christian nation. Take from us, we pray thee, all pride and greed and injustice, and grant to us the spirit of unselfish service, which alone can make us

great. And may the love of Christ be so truly shown forth among us that his name may be glorified among all nations; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."[1]

"O God, who hast commanded us to be perfect, as thou our Father in heaven art perfect, put into our hearts, we pray thee, a continual desire to obey thy holy will. Teach us day by day what thou wouldst have us do, and give us grace and power to fulfil the same. May we never from love of ease decline the path which thou pointest out, nor for fear of shame turn away from it. Amen."[2]

"Almighty Father, help us to follow the example set by Christ in our daily lives. Make us strong in character, and clean in mind and spirit. Help us, our teacher, and all those who influence our fellow men to promote the Christian spirit among all men, and especially in our American communities, that they may receive strength, guidance, and wisdom from above. Amen."[3]

Special Helps for 1927

The Wellspring will carry services of worship following the general theme. The Christian Life Topics will be:

April 3 What Are Some of the Things That Make Us Unhappy?

April 10 What Are Some of the Things That the Young People of Our Neighborhood Need Most?

April 17 What Do We Mean When We Say That Jesus Lives Today?

April 24 What Ought to Be the Relation between Negroes and White People?

BEGIN PLANNING FOR JUNE NOT LATER THAN MAY 1

[1] From *A Book of Prayers for Students*, Christian Student Movement, London.
[2] Henry Alford. Reprinted from *The Congregationalist.*
[3] Lawrence G. Cowles.

MAY AND JUNE: EDUCATION AND LIFE WORK

Plan Early

This chapter contains items relating to several different interests; this means that several committees should be set to work early in April on the respective tasks. During May committees should be at work making special plans for the vacation months. Careful attention should be given to the material in the next chapter, and definite plans should be ready for discussion and decision by the third week in May.

The Summer Conferences

In almost every state there are a number of conferences to which young people are eligible. The first problem is to find out just what conferences are being held, where they are held, what particular kind of work is done at each, what the cost is, and what young people are interested in each of them. It will be discovered that there are the following gatherings: (1) The young people's conference conducted by your denomination. (2) The camp conducted by the International or State Council of Religious Education, sometimes called a Sunday-school camp. (3) The conferences under the direction of special organizations: Christian Endeavor, Y.M.C.A., Boy Scouts, etc. (4) The missionary conferences. (5) Student conferences for those in colleges, normal schools, etc.

As a rule, the church will find that the young people's conference conducted by the denomination meets the needs of the largest number of young people. It is held with the specific aim of instructing young people for larger leadership in the immediate work of the local church. Every church should therefore begin by finding out about this particular conference and making plans to send the right delegates. People especially interested in missions, or those who have had the training which the denominational conference offers, should go to the missionary conference. The same is true of other specialized institutes and camps. In arousing interest:

(1) Have delegates from last year's conference tell some of the good things which happened, or have them dramatize some of the events of the conference.

(2) Invite delegates from a neighboring church to come over and tell what the conference did for them, in case your church did not send anyone.

(3) Secure copies of free leaflets from the Young People's Department, telling of some of the good things that happen in all such gatherings.

After you have done this,

(1) Find out from the responsible officer of your denomination how many delegates he would like to have your church send.

(2) Plan to send a definite number; they may be chosen by ballot, be appointed in consultation with your pastor, or those who desire to go may hand in their names.

(3) Plan to pay part of the expenses of the delegates. This makes them feel that they owe the church something and they will probably take their obligation a little more seriously. When they come back they are to report to the church, and it is expected that new ideas and plans will be put into practice in the program of the department and society.

(4) In raising money consider the following: the individual delegates should pay part of their expenses; the class or society may make an appropriation out of its treasury; the church itself may make a contribution; the young people may earn a certain amount to be set aside as a "Northfield Fund" or a "Summer Conference Fund"; certain business men or women who are interested in young people may be glad to pay part of the expenses if they are convinced that it is a worth-while enterprise.

Mother's Day

This day is generally observed, and in many places Mother and Daughter Week is being celebrated in connection with it. Help for this larger observance may be secured from the International Council of Religious Education, 1516 Mallers Building, Chicago, Ill. Consider the following suggestions:

(1) Have the church well decorated, the dominant note being that of cheerfulness. All mothers may be asked to sit

together, or better still, all sons and daughters may plan to go with their mothers to the service and sit with them.

(2) The society meeting may be one to which all mothers are invited. Be sure to have a carefully planned meeting.

(3) In some cases it may be better to observe "Family Week" rather than Mother and Daughter Week. This will be true in those places where Father and Son Week has not been observed. Let the young people arrange all the programs, provide the refreshments (do not ask mother to bake the cake!) and do all the work. The celebration may begin or end with Mother's Day, when the pastor may speak on some aspect of family life.

(4) The social affair for the month may be one given for parents. Have them play young people's games; do everything possible to take them back to their young days and to provide for them one of the most hilarious events in their whole year.

(5) Another kind of social affair may be one in which the party is held in some home instead of in the church social rooms. This will emphasize the home as the center of our good times.

(6) The Sunday evening society meeting may be held in some home. This, too, will be a wholesome change from the regular order of sitting in formal fashion in the society room.

Goodwill Sunday

May 18 is coming to be recognized throughout the world as Goodwill Day. The plan is to have people of one nation show their friendliness to those of other lands. The following ideas may be used in some groups in addition to the study courses suggested in the November and April chapters:

(1) Have the entire group of Christian young people in the town join in Goodwill Sunday. If the plans are begun early enough, worked out carefully, and presented wisely, you may be able to secure the co-operation of the churches, the business men, and the schools.

(2) A mass meeting may be held, with an address on the people of other nations. Resolutions of good will may be drawn up. These may be sent to a particular missionary in a foreign land to be read to the people of that country.

(3) A dramatization may be used.

(4) Foreign students in the universities may be asked to address the groups.

(5) Foreign workers or business people in the community may be special guests; such as, restaurant owners, laundrymen, workers on the railroad, etc.

(6) A letter may be written to the young people of some particular country.

(7) There are a number of organizations of young people in other lands which are interested in peace and world brotherhood. You may study about them and get into communication with them. Further information may be had by writing to The Commission on International Justice of the Federal Council of Churches, 105 E. 22 St., New York City.

(8) There are many children of foreign parents living in our cities and in some rural regions. Undertake some enterprise of real friendliness toward them. If there are no such in your neighborhood, write to the Home Missionary Society and the American Missionary Association, 287 Fourth Ave., New York City.

Choice of a Life Work

As school is drawing to a close, many students are thinking about further education and the choice of a life work. The last weeks of May and the first weeks of June may be given to careful study of what kinds of positions appeal to young people most. (1) A church-school class may study this matter. (2) The leader of the Scout troop may have informal talks with his boys on the subject. (3) The society may devote a month to general discussion and investigation.

Note the following suggestions:

(1) Boys and girls may be divided into separate groups for discussion, joining in the worship service and also coming together for certain general discussions.

(2) Have prominent leaders in business, industry, and professions talk about the matters in which they are most interested. Allow ample time for questioning.

(3) Visit a minister's study, a court room, a physician's office, a bank, a newspaper plant, a building in process of erection. Do this by arrangement with the men concerned, and try to get a fair idea of what the various occupations are like from seeing the men at work, or at least by seeing them in their workshops.

(4) In considering an individual's choice, ask: What do I like best to do? What do my friends advise me to do? What is the tendency of my life and education? Where is the greatest need? What do I feel urged to do? For a further discussion of these points, see *Principles Governing the Choice of a Vocation*, by President Ozora S. Davis. It may be had without cost by writing to the Young People's Department, or to the Chicago Theological Seminary, 5757 University Ave., Chicago, Ill.

(5) Before making a real decision every person should consult some adult friend whose judgment he trusts.

(6) One of the best outlines for studying this matter is *A Christian's Life Work*, by E. L. Shaver (50 cents).

(7) In considering the question of further education, seek the help of the school principal, the pastor, a college student home for vacation, etc.; also secure catalogs from colleges and universities and try to form an accurate judgment as to which schools are best for the Christian young person who wants to make the most of his life.

(8) Those interested in information regarding the opportunities for service in the ministry, in missionary work, or in religious education should send for free literature to the Young People's Department.

Commencement Season

It is appropriate for church groups to recognize those of their number who are graduating from high school, those from the community who are finishing college, and university students home on vacation. Study and adapt the following plans:

(1) Have a meeting for the boys and girls who are just graduating from grade school or from the junior high school. Let certain young people just graduating from high school give brief talks and invite questions. They may help these younger boys and girls by telling them: the value of high school work, the kind of courses that seem most worth while, the amount of time which should be devoted to outside activities, some things to avoid, etc.

(2) A meeting of a similar character may be held for the high-school young people who are juniors and seniors. Let college students give sound counsel of the same sort.

(3) A meeting or social may be given at which the young people back from college are made to feel very much at home. This will encourage them to take a real part in the summer program of the school or society. Ask some of them to serve on committees in the hope that they will be able to give entirely new ideas for the work of the young people's group during the summer.

Planning the Worship

The theme for the month may be LEADERSHIP.

Bible Passages

Matt. 19 : 16–22, 20 : 20–28, 25 : 31–46; Luke 22 : 24–27.

Hymns

Take My Life, and Let It Be; Lead On, O King Eternal; Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life; Rise Up, O Men of God; Jesus Calls Us; Now in the Days of Youth.

Prayers

"Dear God of gardens, we thank thee for the loveliness of wakening fields and the magic beauty of lacy, red-green woodlands; for the fairy blue flash of a bluebird's wing, the lilting song of a reed-swaying meadow lark, and the golden throat of the Baltimore oriole. We thank thee, O Lord, for the crimson and gold and purple cups of early flowers and for the soft green grass of another springtime.

"For all these tender gifts of springtime we thank thee, dear God of gardens. And then — for something else — as dear; for human kindliness, neighborliness, and human trust; for the happy sharing of spring joys and gladness; the generous division of flower treasures; the new flush in each heart of fresh sympathy and understanding. Amen."[1]

"For peaceful homes and healthful days,
For all the blessings earth displays,
We owe thee thankfulness and praise,
Who givest all." Amen.[2]

[1] Katherine Reynolds. Reprinted from *The Congregationalist.*
[2] Christopher Wordsworth's hymn, "O Lord of Heaven and Earth."

"Our Heavenly Father, without whose help labor is useless, without whose light search is vain, invigorate our studies and direct our inquiries, that by due diligence and right discernment, we may establish ourselves and others in thy holy faith. Let us not linger in ignorance, but enlighten and support us, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord."[1]

"Our Father, we come before thee in this springtime of our lives to ask thy guidance. We feel the thrill of youth with all its joys and high ideals. Oh, do not let us be content within ourselves; but help us to prepare ourselves for larger usefulness. May we consecrate these lives of ours in loving service to thy cause. It is only through this endeavor for larger usefulness that our joyous springtime will become a worthy summer, a glorious autumn, and a pure white winter, patiently awaiting the eternal Springtime. Amen."[2]

We thank thee, our Father, for life. We are grateful because thou hast given us our particular lives, our homes, our friends, our work to do. May we live like Christians in those places where it is hard to be patient and peaceful. Give us a vision of the task which thou wouldst have us perform and give us courage and ability to undertake those enterprises which need our assistance. Amen.

Special Helps for 1927

During May, *The Wellspring* will carry services of worship on LEADERSHIP. The Christian Life Topics follow:

May 1 How to Get Along with Other People.
May 8 The Right Relations between Young People and Their Parents.
May 15 What Should Be Our Main Aim in Life?
May 22 How Should We Decide What Our Life Work Is Going to Be?
May 29 What Are Some of the Things in History of Which an American Should Be Proud?
June 5 What Are Some of the Things that School Has Done for Us?
June 12 How Much Schooling Do Young People Need?

[1] Samuel Johnson.
[2] Margaret Palmer, First Church, Oak Park, Illinois.

The following Christian Endeavor topics fit into the general program:

May 1 What Vocations Are Worth While?
May 8 Elements in Ideal Home Life.
May 15 How to Become a Leader.
May 22 Bible Guide Posts.
June 5 Our Christian Duty to Maintain Health.

SPECIAL SUMMER ACTIVITIES

Shall We Close for the Summer?

In some parts of the country, churches take a long vacation: the church school closes with the day schools, young people's societies do not attempt any work, and the general church services are run on a reduced schedule. In some other sections, the summer is one of the most effective seasons of the year. In looking ahead to next summer, study such questions as the following:

What have we usually done during the summer? Closed up? If so, why? Is there any reason why we need to do that this year? If we have gone on at a "poor miserable rate," why have our programs not been better? Is it better to do poor work in the summer or to close entirely? Is there any reason why we can't do good work this summer regardless of what has happened other years?

Even if the church services themselves are omitted or curtailed, is there any reason why the young people's work can't go on?

If it is decided that the department or society should not continue during the vacation period, make sure of two points: be sure that your program "goes strong" right up to the Sunday when vacation begins, and be sure that the new work starts off "with a bang" the first Sunday in the fall. This means that committees will need to be at work during the late summer to see that everything is carefully planned for the first Sunday of the new church year.

If it is decided to go ahead with work during the summer, consult the pastor for suggestions; find out what other young people's groups in the community are planning to do and see whether there are not some matters in which you can all join; appoint special committees to arrange particular features of the summer program; use young people who are visiting in your community during the summer, and students who are home from college or university.

Union Enterprises

Where the several denominations join in holding union preaching services it will often be helpful for the young people's groups to hold union meetings also. If the teacher of a young people's class in one church is absent part of the summer, the two classes may combine, being taught part of the time by one teacher and part by another. In such a case the meetings may be held now in one church, now in another, and sometimes outdoors. It will be especially useful for the young people's societies to hold union meetings. It may seem wise to hold union sessions all through the summer, or for one month, or every other Sunday through the vacation season. The leader one week may be from one church and then from another; the topic one week may be an Epworth League topic, the next week a Christian Endeavor topic, then one of The Christian Life Topics, etc. Better still, this is an excellent time to get the young people to unite in studying some local need; such as, the questions which are listed in the first chapter of this booklet, the subject of the town's newspapers, the attitude of young people to war, etc. If all the young people unite in some single project like this, the summer program may turn out to be the most useful of the whole year.

Young people from the various churches will probably attend different summer camps and conferences. At least one evening may be devoted to reports from these gatherings. As a result of these reports, committees may be appointed representing all the societies or clubs to see whether there are certain things which may be done together by all the young people's groups during the regular seasons of the year; for instance, union Thanksgiving meetings, some Christmas service to the unfortunate of the community, a rally week in the fall, a go-to-church emphasis, a church membership drive among the young people of the neighborhood.

Using Visitors during the Summer

Many young people go away for the summer, but sometimes there are a goodly number of young people coming into the community for part of the vacation period. Friends come to visit, college and university students are home for the summer recess, other students are working in town or on the farms to earn money to help them through school. You may

appoint a secretary to whom every one is asked to give the names of any visitors that they know of, indicating when they will be in the community.

Some of these visitors may be asked to report on what is being done along the line of young people's work in their home or college churches. Others may be asked to lead meetings, to speak upon some special subject with which they have had some experience, to tell of some of their travels, to participate in the leadership of social occasions, and to give advice as to how your work may be made more useful. Your president should make a note of all suggestions for better work which these young people make and should refer them to the proper committees.

Some churches are supplied for the summer by visiting pastors, and in a good many instances these pastors have flourishing young people's groups in their home fields. They might be asked to tell the department or the society or the officers of some of the plans which they have found workable.

In addition to getting all the available help from these visitors for the summer, you can often render a real service to the visitors themselves. This is especially true of students or other young people who are working on farms, selling books or aluminum, etc.; for these are usually young people who enjoy the fellowship of other young people. If you do not provide an opportunity for them to join your group they will either have a lonesome summer or seek companionship in places which are objectionable.

Have Variety in Your Program

One of the conditions of success in any undertaking is variety. This should be kept in mind all through the year. It is particularly important during the summer, and it applies even more to the society than it does to the class. Some groups find it useful to have a regular system of meetings, in which one Sunday's program is of quite a different character from that which precedes and the one which follows. For instance, the following plan is found helpful in some places:

First Sunday in each month — Discussion topic, led by a young person.

Second Sunday in each month — The reading of a story, with discussion.

Third Sunday in each month — Talk by an adult, with discussion.

Fourth Sunday in each month — Special feature, such as stereopticon lecture, dramatization, etc.

Few groups have yet made use of the great possibilities there are in reading high-grade stories together. In the summer, this may be done outdoors, on the lawn of some home, or in some place quite unlike the regular society meeting room. These stories may be found in magazines, in books, and occasionally a story contained in a "movie" is worth discussing. The person who leads should be able to tell the story well, or should read it with great effectiveness. You may either discuss it or just let the worth of the story make its own impression. Be sure that your discussion touches those phases which really have moral or religious worth. There are three books, among many, which indicate the kind of stories that are both interesting and helpful: Hunting's *Life of Christ for Young People;* Dean Brown's *Ten Short Stories from the Bible;* Barton's *The Man Nobody Knows.* Several young people's groups have found profit from reading anew such volumes as *Pilgrim's Progress* and *In His Steps.* A good many so-called "secular stories" also have real value. A list of some of the better stories will be sent those writing for it, by the Young People's Department, 14 Beacon St., Boston, Mass.

Staying Out of Doors

It goes without saying that many of the social affairs of the young people's groups will be held out of doors. Picnics are much in order. It will often be a real service if the young people's group will give a picnic to others who do not have much opportunity to enjoy such occasions: for instance, a picnic arranged by young people for younger children, the entire program being participated in by the older young people just as though they were children again; a picnic arranged for the grandfathers and grandmothers who seldom, if ever, get together for a good time — be sure that they are taken out in automobiles, that the refreshments are the kind that they enjoy, that they have time just to sit around and talk with each other, and that the young people provide some special kind of entertainment for them; a picnic arranged for

the parents of the young people, for which all the work is done by the young people, and at which the parents are asked to play young people's games, run young people's races, etc.

Many of the Sunday meetings may also be held outside. Particularly is this true if all the societies join on such occasions. Use may be made of the public park or of some central gathering place. Music for such an occasion may be provided by orchestras made up of young people of the various churches, or you may be able to get some town orchestra or band to contribute its services. Such a meeting may either be for the young people themselves, or it may be a union meeting for all the people of the town, arranged by young people, addressed by some local minister or by someone from the outside. If the young people arrange and promote such public union services and make them really worth while, they will be able to win the support of business men, the newspapers, and many other agencies. Be sure to consult your pastors in making all plans.

Sometimes it may be well to drive out to the woods, to the country home of some member of the society, or to the home of some friend for your Sunday evening meeting. This plan is suggested especially for churches which have no Sunday evening preaching service. You may take basket lunches, arrive about six o'clock or so (either driving or hiking), eat your lunch, follow this with your regular discussion and worship meeting. If your service of worship is held just as the sun is setting, you will find it a most inspiring occasion for prayer and song. In selecting the place for meeting, care should be taken not to go where you will be disturbed by many people bent on pleasure.

Visiting Neighboring Communities

The summer is a good time for visiting schools and societies in neighboring communities. By careful advance arrangement, the young people's groups in half a dozen towns may visit each other on six of the summer Sundays; that is to say, each society may have contacts with five other groups, both by going to their meeting and by inviting them to visit. Care should be taken that the local society which is entertaining guests that night has prepared a worth-while program;

it should let the other group know what the subject of discussion will be, and should ask that certain parts be taken by the visitors. Out of such a fellowship during the summer may grow a desire for a meeting, during the fall or winter, of the young people of that county or district. Such a fall meeting may become an actual training institute, at which high-grade instruction is given in methods of young people's work, the problems of young people, etc. It may, in fact, develop into a miniature summer conference program. Help in planning for such an institute may be secured by writing the Young People's Department, 14 Beacon St., Boston, Mass.

Vacation Schools of Religion

The Daily Vacation Bible School movement is spreading rapidly. It provides a period of religious instruction, recreation, and training in handwork for younger children. One of the problems in many places is to secure enough good teachers. This is a piece of service which many of the young people of high-school age can render. It is not only a means of providing pleasure and instruction for the pupils, but it will be a method of increasing the teacher's knowledge and skill.

Personal Service Activities

For many young people, the summer grows monotonous. They weary of reading, going to the "movies," automobiling, and lazing around during the day. The following suggestions are a few which will apply in a good many communities:

There are many people for whom the summer does not bring much rest or vacation. Among them are the mothers of little children. High-school girls may offer to take care of the little children, one afternoon a week. This may be put on an entirely personal basis — a relationship between one girl and one mother — or a class of girls may offer to help a group of mothers, all on the same afternoon. It will turn out to be as much fun for the girls as it is a joy to the mothers.

Paid choirs are often on vacation during the summer. Your society or department may offer to provide certain musical numbers for the services of the church, and may then arrange for solos, instrumental and chorus numbers. Such a program will be a means of increasing the attendance of adults at the church meetings.

If there are older families who are unable to keep their yards looking as well as they would like, young people may offer to spend an afternoon in planting flowers, weeding them, cutting the grass, and doing the odd jobs.

It is especially tedious to be sick during the summer. A regular system of visiting children and young people, and in some cases older people, may be provided through a committee of the class or society. Flowers are abundant in the summer, and there should be a plan whereby bouquets of fresh flowers are always in the sickrooms. The young visitors may leave magazines, read stories, or go prepared to bring some news or note of cheer which will leave the patient in a cheerful mood.

The summer should be a season of intellectual growth as well as of activity and pleasure. It is well, therefore, for every young person to plan a schedule of reading that he wants to carry out. A meeting previous to the summer may discuss: What are Some of the Things Which It will be Worth Our While to Read This Summer? Help may be secured from the librarian, the minister, the school principal, or the Young People's Department, 14 Beacon St., Boston, Mass.

Special Events

Children's Day is a big event in many churches. This offers an opportunity for the older classes to be of help to those in charge of the program and provides a chance for the young people to welcome into their department any classes that may be graduating into that department at this time. In some communities, the formal graduation exercises are held in June and in others in the fall.

Fourth of July is an occasion for picnics and community celebrations. In too many places the community celebration consists in a wild-eyed and unintelligent kind of patriotism — that kind of patriotism which lives by denouncing other nationalities and insisting that "we are the people." If there is any way that your young people's group can make this an occasion for emphasizing peace, world brotherhood, and the things that unite peoples instead of dividing them, use all your power to bring this about. It may be done by studying the plans, finding out how you think they can be improved, appointing a committee (preferably representing the young

people's groups of all the churches) to confer with the community committee, and asking them to make the emphasis which you believe is Christian and right. You may have a float, present an appropriate dramatization, or offer to have one of your young people make a brief talk indicating what youth believes about the type of patriotism which is needed today.

Failing to have any general celebration in which the young people of the churches can have a distinctive part, plan for a service of worship and discussion in your department or society which will make your commemoration of the day distinctly Christian.

A simple yet vital program for a Fourth of July society meeting was worked out by one of the pupils, Miss Jean Eckels, at the Perkiomen Congregational summer conference in 1925:

THEME: **Christian Patriotism**

"America the Beautiful," sung to "Materna."

Prayer, emphasizing the theme of the evening. The person who is to make the prayer should be asked to do it in advance of the meeting.

Scripture: Isaiah 2 : 2–4, or Psalm 33 : 12–22.

Brief talk by the leader, giving a definition of the subject, trying to present the aims of the meeting, and making a few statements or submitting certain questions which may provoke thought and discussion.

Talks by members on topics assigned in advance. These should be the honest and frank views of the members, and there should be an opportunity for discussion of every statement when there are differences of opinion. The leader should try to follow and clear up any arguments which are obscure and which are likely to take time out of proportion to their relation to the subject. He should sum up the points made by each speaker, and take care that the thought of the meeting is progressing and not moving in circles. The topics should be assigned with the personal interest and ability of the members in mind.

Some of the topics which might be considered are:

What do you consider that "patriotism" means?

What is to be done if Christianity and "Americanism" conflict?

What is the value of the American flag? Is its real importance sometimes lost sight of in the observance of a form?

What views would a real patriot hold about war? Why?

"God of Our Fathers, Known of Old."

Benediction.

To this may be added many features; such as, special music, the adoption of certain resolutions or findings as a result of the discussion, plans for further study of the subjects introduced, appointment of a committee to arrange for a month's study of the subject, What are Some of the Things Which Should be Included in the Creed of a Christian American?

Planning the Worship

Such themes as the following may be chosen for the respective months of June, July, and August: THE SPIRIT OF JOY; CHRISTIAN PATRIOTISM; GOD AND THE OUT-OF-DOORS. Appropriate hymns for each of these months are: Lord of All Being, Throned Afar; God of Our Fathers, Whose Almighty Hand; Lord, Thy Glory Fills the Heaven.

June The emphasis from May may be carried over. Hymns of joy include: We Come with Songs of Gladness; Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee; Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart. Scripture passages which strike the note of joy are: Ps. 33 : 1–8; Ps. 97 : 1, 2, 10–12; John 10:10b; Rev. 22 : 1–5.

July Hymns dealing with national progress and the Christian spirit of a nation may be sung; such as, O Beautiful for Spacious Skies; O God, Beneath Thy Guiding Hand; God of Our Fathers, Known of Old; God Bless Our Native Land; Rise Up, O Men of God. Scripture passages may include: Is. 2 : 2–4; Psalm 33 : 12–22; Acts 17 : 22–28; 1 John 2 : 7–11; Matt. 7 : 1–5.

August Some of the greatest hymns emphasize the revelation of God in nature. Among them, the following are especially worth knowing: My God, I Thank Thee, Who Hast Made; God Speaks to Us in Birds and Song; For the Beauty of the Earth; The Spacious Firmament on High. The Psalms are full of an appreciation of God. Use: Psalm 8 : 1–9; Psalm 19 : 1–14; Psalm 93 : 1–5; Luke 12 : 22–28.

Prayers

Many passages from beautiful poems may be used as prayers during both June and August, and the sentiments of great national characters may be incorporated into the worship during July. In addition, there will be a real appreciation of the glories of nature and of God's goodness to our nation which will encourage spontaneous prayer on the part of the young people. The following may be used:

"How pure, at vesper-time,
The far bells chiming, —
God, give me hills to climb,
And strength for climbing."[1]

"Oh brother man, if you have eyes at all,
Look at a branch, a bird, a child, a rose, —
Or anything God made that grows, —
Nor let the smallest vision of it slip,
Till you can read as on Belshazzar's wall,
The glory of eternal partnership!"[2]

Our hearts rejoice, our Father, because thou hast placed us in so wonderful a world. Open our eyes that we may see; tune our ears that we may hear. Thou dost speak to us from every flower and star and breeze. Thou art a guide, a comrade, an inspiration. Breathe thine own life into our hearts. May we, indeed, be children of God. Amen.

Grant, our Father, that we may be true to the prayer of the Father of Our Country, that we may "observe good faith and justice with all nations; cultivate peace and harmony with all. . . . It will be worthy of a free, enlightened and at no distant period a great nation — to give to mankind the magnanimous and too novel example of a people always guided by an exalted justice and benevolence."

Engrave upon our hearts and incarnate in our national living, our Father, those high words of the Great Emancipator: "With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in . . . to do all which

[1] Arthur Guiterman. Used by permission of Harper and Brothers.

[2] Reprint from *The Collected Works*, Edward A. Robinson. Used by permission of the Macmillan Co.

may achieve and cherish a just and a lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations."

"For all the oppressed . . . who sigh for liberty; for all lovers of the people who strive to break their shackles; for all who dare to believe in the divine democracy of thy kingdom, make thou our commonwealth a beacon light of hope and a guide on the path which leads to the perfect union of law and liberty. Amen."[1]

Special Helps for 1927

The services of worship appearing in *The Wellspring* will follow the themes suggested in the preceding section.

The Christian Life Topics for the last half of June, July, and August will bear some relation to the special interests of summer, although they will not be based upon a single emphasis as in the preceding months:

June 19 The Importance of Keeping One's Word.
June 26 The Greatest Need in the Rural Regions of America.
July 3 "America First" — in What?
July 10 The Best Kind of Vacation.
July 17 Some of the Hardest Things to Forgive.
July 24 Is It All Right to Want "to Get a Thrill Out of Life"?
July 31 The Church's Duty to Foreigners in America.
Aug. 7 How Can We Correct the Faults of Young People?
Aug. 14 To What Extent Should We Do What "Our Crowd" Does?
Aug. 21 How Much Freedom Should Young People Expect?
Aug. 28 Where Are Missionaries More Needed: In America or in Japan?

The following topics in the C. E. list are of special interest:

July 3 What Our Government Does for Us.
July 17 Applying Christian Standards in Amusements.
Aug. 14 Modern Prejudices to be Overcome.
Aug. 21 The Goodness and Power of God Revealed in Nature.
Aug. 28 Why is Missionary Work Needed in a Christian Country?

[1] From *Worship and Song*, Winchester and Conant. Copyright, The Pilgrim Press. Used by permission.

WHAT DOES CHRIST EXPECT OF YOUNG PEOPLE TODAY?

A Discussion Course for High-School Girls and Boys

By T. H. P. SAILER

These studies are the outgrowth of problems confronting girls and boys of high-school age, and through the discussions and resulting projects that the course encourages an attempt is made to see if these problems can be met and solved according to Christ's way of living.

Typical Issues on Which the Discussions are Based

What Shall We Do on Sunday?
Shall We Always Tell the Truth?
What Is Your Idea of Heaven?
Why Should a Christian Get More Out of Life than Others Do?
What Is Real Liberty?
Should the Needs of the World Concern Us?

The series is so arranged that any individual assignment may be easily omitted or the order varied. Many classes will find some of the discussions so interesting that they will want to spend more than one meeting on a single issue.

Prices: Teacher's Complete Manual including Pupil's Assignments, 75 cents. Set of Pupil's Assignments (24) published separately in loose-leaf form, 25 cents.

THE WELLSPRING

A Weekly Paper for Young People of Teen Age

For years this paper has been famous for its wealth of fascinating stories, interesting biographical and historical sketches, and for its articles on sports, nature, travel, and science.

Two pages are devoted to material to enrich and stimulate young people's activities and programs such as suggestive worship services and stimulating discussion courses. It is here that a complete treatment of "The Christian Life Topics" suggested for discussion in "A Year's Program for Young People" by Harry Thomas Stock are found.

Other special features are inspirational articles by Margaret Slattery, an anthology of modern poetry, book reviews, and articles on vocational guidance.

Subscription Rates: Single subscription, $1.00 a year. School Subscriptions: 22 cents a quarter; 88 cents a year. Send to nearest address below for sample copies of current issues.

THE PILGRIM PRESS

14 Beacon Street, Boston, Massachusetts

19 S. LaSalle Street, Chicago, Illinois

BV 4427 .S84	Stock A year's program for young people. 750461
MAY 3 '30 MAY 1[illegible] '30	B. Weber BT Maryland
NOV 12 '38 NOV 15 '38	R Fishman 5502 Maryland
FEB 6 '80 FEB 25 '80	A. D. Wamge 3102-Oak Park Ave Berwyn
MAY 3 '90 MAY 14 '90	[illegible] Bach 614 Greenwood
JUL 16 '36 JUL 17 '36	Ray G Rapp 16107 Kimbark
AUG 10 '39 AUG 10 '39	Fred D. Jarvis 3008 Cortland St.
	2- 9905

2- 9905